SUPER/ F2

Bebot! Bebot!: Black Eyed Peas parties all night with Jasmine Trias

ACROSS/ A14

Abu Sayyaf kidnaps businesswoman, son; demands P10M

NEWS / A16

B/Gen. Danilo Lim claims it was he, not Senga, who stopped Feb. 24 coup

NEWS / A2

PRC postpones new nurses' oath-taking until probers resolve exam 'leakage'

GMA 'fully recovered, may leave hospital any time'

By Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DESPITE BEING LAID LOW BY THE FLU, President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to have a hearty appetite.

This tidbit was contained in a medical bulletin from Ms Arroyo's doctors, who said her condition had improved.

GMA A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, July 29, 2006 ★★ 18 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 231 P18 www.inq7.net

Danes happiest people, says study; RP ranks 78th

LONDON—DANES ARE the happiest people in the world, according to a new survey of 178 countries published on Friday that measures health, wealth, education, sense of identity and the aesthetic quality of the landscape.

BANNED A6

Execs bicker; OFWs cower

Politicians seek probe; Owwa mad at envoy

By Jerome Aning and Christine O. Avendaño

WHILE FILIPINO MAIDS cowered in fear in Lebanon, their politicians and diplomats raged against each other in a different kind of war at home.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Marianito Roque yesterday angrily rejected the claim of Philippine Ambassador to Lebanon Al Francis Bichara that the evacuation of the OFWs from Lebanon was being hindered by lack of funds.

The Owwa's funds are intact and Owwa is taking care of all expenses for the evacuation of Filipinos who want to leave the embattled Middle Eastern country, Roque said.

Roque blamed Bichara for causing the ruckus and demanded that the envoy be investigated.

Moving quickly to defuse the uproar triggered by Bichara's allegations, Malacañang yesterday said Bichara had apologized for his remarks and released to the media the ambassador's letter of apology.

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos said the only concern of the Philippine Embassy in Beirut was to finance fund for the OFWs, lease buses to ferry them to Damascus, and pay the entry visas to Syria.

He said the biggest expense was being shouldered by Owwa, which was advancing the payment for the planes flying the OFWs home from Damascus.

POLITICIANS/ A6

SOLDIERS' HEROISM during one of the worst typhoons/landslides to hit Quezon province is frozen in bronze, particularly the rescue from the rubble of Ida Repador (dtg., in Real, Quezon. Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr. (left), who's retiring as Southern Luzon commander and Real town Mayor Arsenio Ramallosa unveil the marker on the spot where the Repador collapsed.

Real honors 'Soldiers of Mercy'

CUDDLED by her father Melvin, the youngest survivor Stella Marie Sur now 5, together with 2 others (at left).

By Dellie T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

REAL, QUEZON—BARELY A WEEK before his exit as head of the military's Southern Luzon Command, Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr. unveiled on Wednesday the "Soldiers of Mercy" monument in the village of Tiguion here as a tribute to the heroism of soldiers during the 2004 tragedy in Northern Quezon.

The 5-ft-7-in high bronze-plated monument symbolizes the soldiers' dedication to their duty of protecting the lives of people in times of war and peace.

Cabuay said the monument would serve as a testament to the soldiers who stood by the people and exerted their

REAL/ A6

PDI PHOTO BY REH ZAMORA
inspired the monument to the soldier. He shot this picture on Dec. 9, 2004.

Al-Qaida calls on all Muslims to attack Israel

DUBAI—AL-QAEDA SECOND-IN-COMmand Ayman al-Zawahiri vowed Thursday (Friday in Manila) that the terror network would carry out attacks against Israel and its backers the United States and Western allies to avenge the Israeli offensives against Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

In a videotape aired by Arabic television channel Al-Jazeera, the right-hand man of Osama bin Laden also called for an alliance of Sunni and Shiite Muslim fighters transcending sectarian animosities and extending from Afghanistan to the Palestinian territories in order to liberate "the whole of Palestine."

Zawahiri's comments—in which he invoked revered Shiite figures like Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein, as well as figures revered by Sunnis—indicated that al-Qaida, which is made up of Sunni Islamist extremists, was prepared to help Hezbollah despite differences with the Shiite sect.

AL-QAEDA/ A6

OFW jailed for sitting on the Koran

By Delmar Carlos
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—HER FORMER employer said the family's only motive to pay for her placement fees to work as a maid in the United Arab Emirates in April.

Now, she's in jail after she sat on the Muslims' holiest book, the Koran, accidentally.

Provincial officials here said the Department of Foreign Affairs learned that a Shariah court on July 19 sentenced Jessalou Tayam, 28, to a month's imprisonment. She will also be deported after serving her sentence.

In a letter faxed to the provincial capitol here, Tayam said she did not notice the Koran as a blanket was covering it when she sat on a bed to rest.

She said this angered her employer, Jeanna Jamil Bakhet Jamahit, who immo-

OFW JAILED/ A6

72 more Filipinos arrive; Greek tycoon offers ship

By Vali Contreras and Cynthia D. Balana

SHE MADE IT BACK TO HER NATIVE land with two beautiful children in her arms, red bruises on her face, and images of horror on her mind.

Estrelle Reyes said she and her family witnessed how an entire building in Southern Lebanon, home to around 15 people, including children, crumbled within seconds after being hit by a bomb.

As Reyes flew back home yesterday with the latest batch of 61 other Filipino evacuees from Lebanon, aid for the still trapped OFWs poured in from foreign sources—including from a Greek millionaire named Antonios Antonious, who offered his own ship to evacuate them.

Antonious, Philippine-based owner of Olympic Gulf Tanker Company and married to a Filipina, made the offer to Vice President Noli de Castro.

According to De Castro, Antonious told him his ship could ferry as many as 2,000 Filipinos from Beirut to Cyprus in one voyage alone, or 15 hours by sea.

De Castro's chief of staff, Jesse Andres, said that Antonious came to their office upon learning of the problems encountered by the government in evacuating the OFWs.

Andres said Antonious claimed to have also helped evacuate OFWs in Iraq during the first Gulf War in the '90s.

He said that 80 percent of workers in Antonious' ship were Filipinos.

Antonious also offered the help of the different associations of shipowners in Greece "if the worst comes to the worst."

"Antonious promised to shoulder the meal expenses of OFWs as well as the fuel from Beirut to Cyprus only. From Cyprus, the OFWs will have to take a

72 MORE/ A6

Intrigues, kindness, heavy metal music wear down Magdalo detainees

By Fe Zamora

A COMBINATION OF "SOLDIERS' confinement, intrigues, unsolicited acts of kindness, and even monotonous blasting of [heavy] metal music" has taken a toll on the detained Magdalo rebel soldiers, according to the former legal counsel of one of them.

While some slept soundly even with the loud music, "some have been weakened, [and] we cannot blame them," lawyer Roel Pulido said in explaining the current state of mind of the young officers who seized the Oakwood apartment hotel in Makati on July 27, 2003, and demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At the time, the rebel soldiers numbering over 300 were led by a band of closely knit officers—Captains Gerry Gambela and Milo Maestrecampo (both from the Army), Captains Gary Alejano and Mel Batilles (Marines) and Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes and James Layug (Navy)—who appeared united to

INTRIGUES/ A6

HELPING HANDS: US envoy to the Philippines Kristie Kenney (right) tries out a sewing machine donated by USAID during her visit on Thursday to a livelihood set-up in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

PNP appoints police czar in Mindanao

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOLLOWING THE MOVE OF THE Armed Forces to split the Southern Command into two forces, the Philippine National Police is placing the entire Mindanao under the supervision of one officer.

The move is aimed at bolstering the integration of efforts among the six regional police commands in Mindanao, and the cooperation between them and the military in stamping out major threats to state security, police said.

The deputy chief for operations will oversee operational and supervisory control over the police in the Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao region, Soccsksargen, Caraga and Autonomous Re-

PNP APPOINTS/ A6

A1
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2006
Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY...Partly cloudy and Friday will scattered showers also with scattered thunderstorms and thunderstorms becoming widespread today over Mindanao and Eastern Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

Nurses' oath-taking stopped

By Christine F. Esguerra and Michael Lim Ubac

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION has decided to postpone indefinitely the Aug. 22 oath-taking of new nurses as it deals with lingering controversy over the integrity of the last nursing licensure examinations.

Fabricio Gonzaludo, the head of the PRC's Board of Nursing, said the postponement would allow the PRC to engage in a comprehensive dialogue with the deans of nursing colleges around the country.

"The academic heavy lifters maintain that the PRC violates the question of the alleged leakage in the June nursing licensure exams before swearing in the successful examinees.

"A meeting with the nursing deans has been set for Aug. 17 at the PRC office in Sampaloc, Manila.

House probe

In Congress, Bataan Rep. Enrique Garcia filed a resolution directing the appropriate committees to conduct an investigation into the nursing exam leakage.

Pichay said the success of the controversy touched "his and wife, even placing in its anxiety-filled hunting the chances of the country's medical practitioners in the global workforce."

He said the nursing exam fiasco was the last thing that the country needed.

"Now that we have given the world (the) impression abroad, let's not spoil the situation by causing doubt on the quality of nursing graduates in the country," said Pichay, the vice chair of the Commission on Appointments.

"We have been banking on our medical practitioners to be one of our greatest assets in competing in the global market...but the issue now casts doubts on their very competency," he said.

Pichay said the reported leakage, which the PRC had confirmed, just raise questions not just the integrity of the PRC and Board of Nursing but "also the eminent test of the genuineness of our nursing graduates' competency and accordingly, the quality of health care given to our people."

The House probe will look into the alleged involvement of two Board of Nursing officials and the Gaspar Review Center which has various branches nationwide.

"We should determine whether (someone) government officials were guilty of misfeasance or malfeasance," said Pichay.

The congressman said the inquiry could lead to a thorough review of relevant national laws, including the Nursing Act of 2002 and the PRC Modernization Act of 2000.

"Your health is injurious to a nation aspiring and working for progress, hence the urgent need to underscore the high competency of the medical workers delivering these services," he said.

The decision to defer the oath-taking came after an hour-long meeting last Thursday with the nursing deans of the University of the Philippines, University of the East and the University of Santo Tomas.

Lingering doubt

Also present at the meeting were two LPI faculty members, three PRC commissioners, four Board of Nursing members, and Dr. Marilyn Lorenzo, director of the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies of the UP Manila National Institutes of Health.

Gonzaludo said the desire "unanimously" asked for the postponement because of what they said were lingering questions over the integrity of the June exams.

Lapus hits ground running

By Alcuin Papa

LOBOTOMY SECRETARY JESS Lapus hit the ground running on his first day at work, rattling off a series of new initiatives that he believes would alleviate the department's perennial shortage of resources.

First, Lapus said he is working out a deal with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to reinvest confiscated logs into school desks.

A former congressman, Lapus said he would ask Congress to amend the charter of the Philippine Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to compel the casino gaming authority to allocate 10 percent of its annual gross sales to the Department of Education (DepEd) to ease the current shortage.

He said the Chinese government has agreed to extend loans to this government for the construction of 10,000 classrooms, if the deal pushes through, it will significantly close the classroom gap which stands at 105 thousand, short. 13,000 to 11,000 classrooms, he said.

Lapus said he would also lobby to obtain P7.3 billion out of the P46.4 billion supplemental budget which Malacañang has submitted to Congress approval after the billion to pass the 2006 budget.

"The P7.3 billion represents the difference between the DepEd's 2005 budget, (P132.16 billion) and the 2006 budget (P139 billion)," he said.

Finally, Lapus has revealed that he intends to ask for (P139-billion budget for education in 2007. He said that Budget and Management Secretary Rolando Andaya has told him the amount would even be higher.

Lapus took over from Lisbeta Quintos, by Mahiya, the department's officer in charge, in simple turnover ceremonies yesterday at a management committee meeting. In his remarks, Lapus urged the DepEd employees to cooperate with him and "to spare the DepEd from the troubles of politics."

"We are optimistic that we will be able to harness a more energetic, more focused implementation of our programs and projects," he said.

He reiterated that he would focus on a "target and results-oriented" DepEd by improving management systems in the department, the biggest government agency with around half a million employees.

"Management is everything. We are not going to camp the major reform programs. I think it is the management of the day-to-day existing programs of the departments. I have seen the nucleus programs and there are very good programs. What is just needs is better management and implementation," Lapus said.

Specifically, he cited the Adopt-a-School program which relies on much not to the private sector and solicit donations for classrooms and books, among others.

"We will be re-launching the Adopt-A-School Program to reserve the interest and support of the private sector, so that we may be able to provide those with the versus schools they could help and support public education," Lapus said.

He said that he would make the National Achievement Test (NAT) "the acid test to measure everybody's performance based on the grades of the students," noting that only two out of every 100 high school students are able to score 75 percent or higher in the test.

He said he is for promoting technical and vocational courses in high schools as an alternative to college degrees.

Lapus also said he is coordinating with Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to institute a screening system for incoming college students, much like the defunct National College Entrance Examination (NCEE), to make sure qualified students of graduates are matched with the incoming needs of the job market.

Meanwhile, Lapus has ordered that a survey be undertaken among education stakeholders on the possibility of moving the school opening from June to September.

Lapus said moving the opening of classes to September would mean a smoother school opening because there would be more classrooms built, noting that classrooms usually are used at the end of the second quarter, making new school buildings ready by September.

Aboitiz firm denies opposing Transco deal

THE ABOITIZ-LED VISAYAS Electric Co. (Vesco) has denied its opposition that it was opposed to a power supply agreement between the state-owned National Transmission Corp. (Transco) and the Repco Phil. Corp.-Salcon Power Corp. joint venture.

Industry watchdogs has it that the signing of the agreement led to the recent firing of Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz.

Vesco said in a statement that it actually welcomed the agreement under which Transco would source part of the 200-megawatt plant of the Philippine-Korean joint venture.

Vesco said there was no reason for it to oppose the agreement and the construction of a new power plant in the Visayas.

"We see this as a very positive move to bring power to the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid," the statement said.

Under the memorandum of agreement, Transco will purchase power for its ancillary services when the Repco-Salcon plant in Naga, Cebu becomes operational in 2009.

The state-run National Power Corp. has committed to transfer some of its contracts for the supply of electricity and energy to the new plant, assuring the joint venture of a market for the power that it produces.

According to industry observers, the Aboitiz group, one of the biggest players in the power industry, did not want the Korean-based Korea Electric Power Corp. to enter the Visayas energy market through its local subsidiary, Kephil.c. Abigail L. Ho

Time to give in to your desire.

The BMW One-Year Deferred Payment Plan.

Extended until July 31, 2006.

- The One-Year Deferred Payment Plan starts with a 35% downpayment.
- The first monthly payment follows only after one year or on the 12th month.
- Monthly payments can be extended up to 2 years.

*This innovative ownership solution is available on all brand new BMW models.

Autohaus BMW 116 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel: 635-0000 • Fax: 636-6000

Supplemental budget unconstitutional—Joker

IT MAY FIND SOME SUPPORTERS but Malacañang may be walking with the Constitution, pressing Congress to pass a P46-billion supplemental budget, administration Sen. Joker Arroyo warned yesterday.

"They're trifling with the Constitution," the maverick administration senator said in a phone interview.

Arroyo reminded Malacañang that Congress would not pass a supplemental budget because it had not approved the P1,415-trillion 2006 national budget, which was still stuck in the bicameral-conference committee.

"To cannot supplement the 2006 budget because it is pending in the Senate. You cannot supplement an existing law, and the 2006 budget is not yet a law," he said.

To consider a supplemental budget, senators and congressmen had to submit the 2006 budget, he added, saying "It cannot take up a supplemental budget unless it first disposes, one way or the other, of the 2006 budget in the Senate."

Congress failed to pass the 2006 budget before adjourning its second regular session on June 8 after bicameral talks bogged down over strong disagreements on the P64-billion cuts made by the senators.

Taking his cue from Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said last Malacañang had submitted to Congress a supplemental reality of P46,410-billion to complement the finances for the unexpired of the 2006 budget.

In his State of the Nation Address last June 26 stating the President pushed for the passage of a supplemental budget to cover the internal revenue allotment, the local government unit share in national government revenues, and the nationalization of electricity.

Senators were divided on the issue. Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., Sen. Franklin Drilon and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said they were open to passing a supplemental budget.

Arroyo and Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the committee on ways and means, opposed this, arguing that allocations in the supplemental budget were already covered by the 2006 budget and that Congress might end up debating this, the 2006 budget and the 2007 budget at the same time.

The President is given 30 days to submit the budget for next year from the time she delivered her State.

Something 'fishy' in arrest warrant

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez smells something "fishy" in what he said was the unclear basis with which a Quezon City judge issued an arrest warrant against Maria Elena Bautista, the chair of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

Judge Hakim Calpad of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court had cited Bautista in contempt of court for failing to comply with an order to transfer the LTFRB to the city's central area.

Noting that he had yet to rule on a motion for reconsideration that Bautista had filed through the Office of the Solicitor General, Gonzalez questioned why the court did not first hear the motion.

Bautista narrowly escaped arrest at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last Thursday like was saved by the for-tuitous presence of the justice secretary at the airport.

She have managed to accuse a week-long suspension of the arrest warrant.

But Gonzalez said it would be unfair to punish her over any administrative liability on the part of the judge.

"Eventually, that is something that we will have to thresh out later on if there are grave abuse of discretion or irregularities on the part of the court," he said.

Gonzalez noted that Calpad had placed some marginal notes setting the date for bail hearings and to tackle Bautista's motion for reconsideration, but the court never issued that the judge had signed.

He theorized that the fact that the judge placed some marginal notes setting the date for bail hearings now week means that the court already took cognizance of Bautista's motion for reconsideration.

Therefore, the serving of the warrant should have been suspended until the court resolved Bautista's motion.

On Thursday Bautista and executive arrested together in an Air Philippines flight from Iloilo where they were both invited by the latter's son, Rep. Loyd Gonzalez Jr., for the inauguration of the hall of justice in that province.

The civil case that caused Bautista's legal problems concerns the sale of a bus franchise involving Island Typhoon and Don Orsa Lines. The latter had won the bidding to buy out Islands franchise.

Armando A. Doronio

SC clears 'Kokoy' of 24 charges

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY cleared on a mere technicality ex-Ambassador Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, the brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, of 24 graft charges filed against him by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

The high court ordered the dismissal of the graft charges against Romualdez on the ground that the 15 to 20-year period within which time he should have been tried in court for his alleged offenses has already lapsed.

In a 20-page decision penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, the high court's Special First Division gave credence to the lawyers of Romualdez who argued that the prescription period should include the time he was out of the country.

The charges that have been ordered dismissed are pending before the Sandiganbayan and the Manila City Regional Trial Court.

Romualdez was accused of failing in file his statements of assets and liabilities (SALN) from 1963-1985, and for the period 1968-1986 during his tenure as technical assistant to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Romualdez was charged with violations of Section 7 of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for his failure to file his SALN during those years when he was technical assistant to the DFA, and subsequently as an envoy.

In a vote of 5-1, the four-man division ruled that the government lost its right to prosecute Romualdez because the alleged offenses have already prescribed.

"We believe that a liberal interpretation of the law on prescription in criminal cases equally provides the authority for the rule that the prescriptive period runs while the accused is outside of Philippine jurisdiction. The nature of the law on prescription of penal statutes supports this conclusion," said the decision concurred by Associate Justices Leonardo A. Quisumbing and Adolfo S. Azcuna.

But Justice Alicia Austria-Martinez and Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio asserted that offenses charged against Romualdez could not have been filed because the latter was absent from the Philippines from 1986 to April 27, 2000 and thus the prescriptive period did not run from the time of discovery in 1986, citing Article 91 of the Revised Penal Code which provides that "the term of prescription should not run when the offender is absent from the Philippines or his whereabouts."

PNP receives P8M worth of computers, software from US

POLICE RECEIVED YESTERDAY SOME P8 million worth of computer hardware and software from the US State Department, bolstering investigators' capability to decipher and analyze electronic data.

American experts have been training policemen from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group during the last few weeks to use some of the most advanced technology in combating cyber crime, police said.

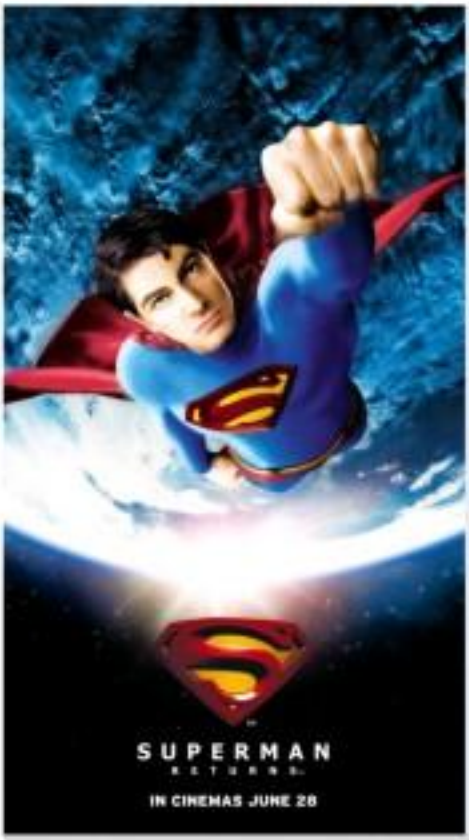
US Ambassador Kristie Kenney handed over the donation to the PNP at Camp Crame yesterday.

This was the second wave of donation that the CIDG had received.

In 2003, the US State Department also donated close to P9 million worth of electronic equipment.

The technology helped Filipino policemen pin down a batch of government websites three years ago, the CIDG said in a statement.

The latest batch of equipment would allow investigators to seize scanners of computer hard drives and electronic storage devices, as well as mobile phones and PDAs. (edge) A. del Puerto



IMAGINE FLYING HOME WITH OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD FREEBIES.

Get a free limited edition SUPERMAN RETURNS™ item when you buy any of participating Samsung mobile phones! Feel the power with other-worldly items like SUPERMAN RETURNS™ phone straps, umbrellas, notebook cases, or a rare bag! Inquire at your nearest Samsung mobile phone dealers now! Promo period is from June 15 to July 31, 2006.

Participating dealers: ABC Store • Abenson Avant • ACCESSORA Corporation • ACX Telecom • BBD Int'l • Bonjourno • Cellphone Lab • Celsatone • CEO Phone • Expression's Mobile Center • Global Mobile Links • GMI Gear Mktg. • CL Telecom • Guerzon • Hello • Junion • Mega Cellular • MemoExpress • Mobile Experts • Nimanali • ORO Graphic • P. Antena • Phones & Gadgets • Pinoy Mall • PSS Mktg. • QSL Electronics • Tel Webcom • Viewers Telecoms • Wifebloom

www.supermanreturns-asia.com

SAMSUNG

SUPERMAN and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © DC Comics

PNP appoints police czar in Mindanao

On behalf of the members of the IGLESIA NI CRISTO *worldwide, Executive Minister Eraño G. Manalo would like to thank all those who sent congratulatory messages to him, and those who published their greetings and good wishes in different newspapers on the occasion of the*

92ND ANNIVERSARY
OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO

A1 to page A2

glos in Muslim Mindanao, according to a letter of instruction issued on July 22 by the PNP chief, Director General Dan Lubrico.

The instruction effectively makes Deputy Director General Isidro Lapeña, the third highest PNP official, the police czar in Mindanao.

He will be vested with the powers to launch wide-scale operations aimed at crippling communist targets simultaneously. If necessary, in different regions, the instruction said.

Reached on the phone last Thursday, Lapeña said he would hold office in Davao City or any other area in Mindanao at least four days a week.

NPA strongholds

"Part of my job would be to implement the shift in paradigm," he said, referring to the PNP's more aggressive role in internal security operations.

Some of the biggest guerrilla units of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, are based in Mindanao.

The extremist Abu Sayyaf also thrives in Basilan and Sulu.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the dismantling of the communist insurgency in two to three years. But even some senior police officials said this would be impossible unless the root causes of rebellion—poverty and injustice—were addressed first.

The government, meanwhile, is holding peace talks with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which enjoys influence over the ARMM and nearby provinces.

Not entirely new

The Office of the Mindanao Area Police is not necessarily new concept. The PNP has previously assigned senior officers, usually the third in command, to oversee the police forces in Mindanao.

But the administration's all-out war against the CPP/NPA has added a fresh dimension to the post.

While the National Internal Security Plan provides for a system of cooperation between the military and the police, "there is a considerable degree of difficulty encountered ... in view of the disparity in the level of command and span of operational jurisdiction of area commands on the part of the AFP and the regional offices on the part of the PNP," police said.

But according to Calderon's letter of instruction, the creation of the post of the Mindanao police czar is "expected to eliminate the problem because the AFP Southern Command that covers the whole Mindanao will deal only with one PNP area supervisor that I (also) control in the entire Mindanao."

2 forces

Last week, AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said the Southern Command, the military's biggest regional command, would be split into two forces with its area of responsibility divided between eastern and western Mindanao.

Terrorist groups are mostly based in western Mindanao, and communist rebels in the east.

The Southern Command comprises about 60 percent—or 75,000 troops—of the 120,000-strong AFP.

Real honors 'Soldiers ...

A4 to page A4

host efforts to alleviate their suffering during those tragic moments.

The Bohican chief, who is set to retire on July 31, will be replaced by Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano, the previous chief of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division.

Based on PDI photo

The monument was built based on the photo of Inquirer Ironman Boy Zamora that showed two unidentified Army soldiers carrying the frail body of 3-year-old Stella Marie Sarabia (carrying her from the rubble of the Bogabo building in Tagoloan in Bohol.

The concrete memorial was erected along the path of rampaging mud and water that traveled down the two-storey Bogabo building on the night of Nov. 29, 2004, and buried more than 150 shelter seekers.

The site of the monument was donated by Mayor Jesus Sarabia's family.

Melvin Jun Ouchi Sabar of Stella Marie, said he volunteered to help in the construction of the monument as his own way of expressing gratitude to the soldiers who saved his child.

Undergratitude

"Those Army men saved my daughter. Our whole family owes them a debt of gratitude," he said.

The elder Sar said his daughter was unconscious when the child who was depicted in the monument. "She was carried when we told her. She was laughing," the mother said.

On Dec. 9, 2004, Sarah Jane found out along with three other survivors in a dramatic rescue attack President Macapagal-Arroyo called a "miracle."

"My mom (was already) contemplating on burying their way into the rubbles to recover more dead bodies but I held them off for a few more days, a gut feeling which helped save the four survivors," Cabuay said.

Cabuay recalled how the more than 300 Army troopers, who were later christened as "bond soldiers," walked in several kilometers of muddied roads carrying packs of rice, emergency foodstuffs and bottled water just to reach the hungry and hospitalized victims.

The monument ceremonies was attended by local officials from Bohol, General Palma and Tacloban town, military and police officials, local villagers and some 600 pupils from Tagoloan Elementary School.

Expressions of gratitude

Gloria Arevalo, the school principal, said every of 12 pupils profiled in the identity, shared all the students who attended the ceremony breakfast from the rescue efforts of the Army soldiers.

"Our presence here is our own way of expressing our gratitude to the heroism of the soldiers," Arevalo said.

Coffee table book

During the unveiling ceremonies, Cabuay also unveiled a local official launch a book of his unflinchable book titled "From devastation to restoration—RIZAL Bohol."

The book is a collection of photos and personal accounts of the rescue and rehabilitation efforts by the government and private entities will the military to be basic lines.

In the book, Cabuay said the "soldier was everywhere—in the muddied, flooded areas of the towns, to the isolated, far-flung barangays, bringing relief. Some on foot and with the relief stench of Bogabo."

In that instance, "the Filipino soldier did not have to be a single shot. Just rather silenced his gun and opened his heart to serve the people he has sworn to protect," Cabuay added.

SUSTAINING the WAR AGAINST HOMELESSNESS

"The government upholds a strong social reform agenda to meet the housing requirements of the homeless"

HOUSING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. **Direct Housing Provision.** Since 2001, a total of 614,246 underprivileged and homeless citizens were provided security of tenure through the following programs:

4. **Asset Reform program** – 10,000 families benefited under the program which empowers the poor by owning properties

PROGRAM	No. of Families
Community Mortgage Program (CMP)	35,000
Land Tenure Project (NHMFC)	31,451

5. **Relocation of Informal Settlers** – 43,113 families were given secure tenure from the government's resettlement program. The most common of which is the livelihood and livelihood relocation project

PROGRAM	No. of Families
Livelihood project	15,000
Bagong Silang Relocation Program	6,000
Pasig River Rehabilitation Program	6,000
Relocation of families along other danger areas	6,000

6. **Housing for Employees.** Some 283,094 government and private sector employees were provided housing through the combined end-user programs of the Pag-IBIG Fund, the GSIS Unang Sigaw Housing Program, and the SSS Housing Development Loan Program.

2. **Indirect Housing Assistance.** From 2001 to June 2004, total guarantee provided by the government to developers and financial institutions reached P80.31 billion. A total of P23 billion housing bonds were also floated to augment the funds for housing.

3. **Regulatory Program.** Since June 2001, licenses to sell were issued to developers which provided housing units to 744,000 families in 51,000 housing projects in the country.

Danes happiest people, says study; RP ranks 78th

A4 to page A4

The survey follows studies earlier this month that said the tiny South Pacific Ocean archipelago of Vanuatu are the happiest country on earth. The three lowest were tanks (No. 16).

The Philippines ranks 78th in the study, published by a University of Leicester economist who produced a World Map of Happiness.

Seven of the top 10 happiest countries were from Europe or its successors, with the Bahamas, Bhutan and Brunei being the exceptions.

The United States ranks 23rd, Germany seven in 41 another 35, and Britain ranks 41st.

"Where people are asked if they are happy with their lives, people in countries with good health care, a higher GDP (gross domestic product) per capita, and access to education were much more likely to report being happy," said Adrian Bebbe, the social psychologist who carried out the study.

Positive psychology

"The fluctuations of modern life, and the anxieties of the age, seem to be much less significant compared to the health, financial and educational needs in other parts of the world."

Bebbe's analysis was based on the findings of more than 300 different studies questioning 90,000 people around the world.

"Its concept of happiness, or satisfaction with life, is currently a main area of research in economics and psychology, most recently associated with new developments in positive psychology," Bebbe said.

"There is increasing political interest in using measures of happiness as a national indicator in evaluating those with economics of wealth. A recent BBC survey found that 51 percent of the population think the British government should focus on making Britons happier rather than wealthier," he added.

In the study published earlier this month by the British think tank New Economics Foundation, ranked seven members of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized countries much lower than the latest survey.

The United States, for example, ranked 150th, Germany 81st and Britain 108th.

Top 10

The top 20 were: 1. Denmark 2. Switzerland 3. Austria 4. Iceland 5. Bahamas 6. Finland 7. Sweden 8. Bhutan 9. Brunei 10. Canada

Missed others included: 13. Netherlands 27. Malaysia 29. Norway 33. UAE 35. United States 36. Australia 41. Saudi Arabia 44. Kuwait 45. Qatar 46. Spain 62. France 63. Hong Kong 64. Indonesia 76. Thailand 82. China 90. Japan 130. Israel 140 to 125. India 160. Pakistan 167. Russia

Taking up the cyst are Zimbabwe, No. 177 and Burundi, No. 178.

AFP

Under new PNP chief, killings go on

By Luigi A. del Puerto

A TOTAL OF EIGHT MILITANTS, including three Bayan Muna members, and a radio broadcaster had been killed since July 5, the day Director General Oscar Calderon assumed command of the 118,000-strong Philippine National Police, according to reports culled by the Inquirer.

Calderon's marching orders to his troops that day was to go after the attackers of leftists, journalists and government officials and employees.

Six days then, the police have not arrested an assassin of a militant leader or member, although they have nabbed the alleged attacker of a broadcaster in Iligan City last week.

His predecessor, Arturo Lomibao, has also largely failed to stop the spate of murders, which targeted mostly members of the left-leaning party-list group Bayan Muna.

The latest victim was Eleanor Ladica, also a member of Bayan Muna. He was shot dead while having coffee with his three sons outside his house in Aklan town in Aklanon Ground on Wednesday.

Told that the Philippine National Police has not stopped the spate of killings despite his orders, Calderon said:

"All I could say is we cannot cover all grounds because of the limitations of the police, and most of my police are concentrating on anti-crime efforts."

GMA 'fully recovered, may leave hospital any time'

From page A1

In the bulletin issued by the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City at 10 a.m. yesterday, Doctors Juliet Cervantes and Ben Medina-Librada said their patient was "alert and aware," her fever had "gone down," and she was feeling "a lot stronger already."

"The most important thing is she continuously has a very good appetite," the doctors said.

In another medical bulletin issued at 6 p.m., the doctors said: "The President is well and fully recovered from the flu. We continue to advise her to take a full rest. From the medical point of view, she can be discharged any time, but as a strongly advise that she get complete rest in the hospital, given her propensity to work when she is in Malacañang."

It was a reiteration of the earlier bulletin quoting Cervantes as saying that while Ms Arroyo could "probably" be discharged today, her family had requested that she rest.

"In if we think that she will again work once we send her back to Malacañang, I think she is the best place where she can rest," Cervantes said.

Running the government

Despite being bedridden, Ms Arroyo apparently continued to run the government from her hospital suite.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President's hospital confinement had not led to any disruption in Malacañang's operations.

"She continued to go through her papers and read them, and after her doctors calling at throughout the day," he said. "When she first called me, I told her, 'I hope you are well. But don't worry Ma'am, everything is okay, just relax.'"

Ermita said that based on his phone conversations with Ms Arroyo, she should be ready to check out of St. Luke's late this afternoon.

"I believe she's ready to go back to work. They said she has the flu, but I think she doesn't have it anymore," he said.

While Ermita continued to handle the day-to-day operations of the government as the "Cerde President," he said Ms Arroyo continued to have the final say on key policy matters.

Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap said Ms Arroyo had even instructed him to give her the short list of persons who would head the development of the planned "super regions."

"She was giving out orders while she was lying up in the hospital ebenezer in her room. That's why I'm preparing the names now to give them to her this afternoon," Yap said yesterday.

Visitors barred

The President's doctors said in their morning bulletin that all visitors, including Cabinet members, were barred from seeing their patient.

Joining government officials flocking to Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, were at St. Luke's secretary, as was Director Nelal Cruzed, chief of the Metro Manila police.

But Ms Arroyo's aides was encouraged with Reuters, including a hospital from Vice President Noli de Castro, that Defensor was prompted to appeal to other well-wishers to make donations to social programs instead.

Yap said expenses from only Ms Arroyo's doctors and members of the First Family were allowed in her room.

He said the President was "very much in control" of the government despite her confinement.

"She's not subdued—not in very deep sleep or very weak," he said.

Yap said the President was also concerned about how the markets had reacted to her latest hospital confinement, and how the Department of Foreign Affairs was dealing with the flood rains on the evacuation of Filipino workers in Lebanon.

"All macro economic indicators, capital market figures, are strong and up, so there is no need for anyone to be concerned," he said.

Slow down

The President's aides are, Interpeace Rep. Juan Miguel "Migsy" Arroyo, said he would suggest to the Cabinet to appeal to his colleagues to slow down to give herself more time to heal.

But he admitted that this appeal would fall on deaf ears.

Ermita said he reminded Ms Arroyo of the virtue of resting during her Post-confinement.

"I told her, 'Ma'am, you should slow down,' but the pair smiled at me," said Ermita, who wondered aloud whether he should draft an executive order limiting the President's working hours.

But he said the problem was Ms Arroyo would have to sign the EO for it to take effect.

For his part, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo would "gradually follow" her doctors' advice to rest.

"The President, I believe, is the best judge of what she can and should do," Bunye said when asked whether he thought Ms Arroyo needed to slow down, considering that it was the second time she fell ill in little more than a month.

He also disagreed with the question of whether Ms Arroyo was being stubborn: "I think 'stubbornness' is not the appropriate word. I think the President has single-mindedness of purpose, and she has clear schedules, and as much as possible she would like to stick to her schedule. But I believe every now and then, not only the President but also everyone of us should slow down."

Work, political problems

According to Deputy Speaker Sir Wimbanan Leroy Salaguinito and Bukidnon Rep. Teresa Oliveros, Ms Arroyo's political problems had taken their toll on Ms Arroyo.

The two lawmakers wished for the President's speedy recovery and said the people should appreciate her hard work.

Salaguinito said Ms Arroyo should delegate more work to her official family to lessen her load and less herself of stress.

Oliveros said Ms Arroyo had "sacrificed her own health just to keep her record of service, while her family continue to give her headaches."

"We commiserate with the President for the unfair treatment by the opposition," Oliveros said.

With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

SUNDAY AUCTION
JULY 30, 2006 (SUNDAY) 11AM (Viewing starts at 9:00AM)
HBF AUCTION VENTURES, INC.
OVER 300 ITEMS UP FOR GRAB!
FOR DETAILS & LOCATION: CALL US AT
736-7288; 735-6208 or
09088161; 09271481545;
09193 867 5825; 09189 550 4584

GAMBALA: Unmoved in a statuesque

SANJUAN: Scolded at Malacañan

TELLAPRES: Unmoved in a wedding

PULIDO: We cannot blame them

ATTENTION
Bars, Restaurants & Coffee Shops
werzalit
Long-Lasting Table Tops
ITALVARS Stackable & Quality Chairs
Aluminum Chairs & Tables
DEXTERTON

Intrigues, acts of kindness, heavy metal . . .

From page A1

their goal of reforming the military and the government.

Three years after what has come to be known as the Oakwood mutiny, the Magdalo group is split into two, with the Navy and Marine faction apparently taking the hard line against the Army faction that signed a statement last October professing allegiance to Ms Arroyo.

But even the Army group has also splintered, as a result of the "intrigues" sown by the members' jailers, Pulido said.

Bunidang's TV appearance

Pulido said that for three days following their capture last July 7 in Pilinerio, Quezon City, Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza, 1st Lt. Patricio Bunidang Jr. (his former client), 1st Lt. Jonny Tantiansu, 1st Lt. Angelbert Gay Lejo Eleven Sadrwa and 2nd Lt. Gideon Balcimaño were handcuffed with heavy metals that was piped into their cells even at night.

At one point, Pulido said, Bunidang was taken from his cell and brought back days later. During Bunidang's absence, an officer dropped in and casually told the other detainees that Bunidang had "appeared on TV."

Another officer dropped in for a chat with the detainees, and also casually offered a cell phone to anyone who wanted to call his mother or wife.

Lieutenant Bunidang did not say a word on TV but a send of doubt was planted in the minds of his colleagues when they were told that he had appeared before the media," Pulido said.

According to the lawyer, the experience may have also affected Bunidang, who, for several days after being re-arrested in his cell, refused to touch his prison rations or even respond on greetings from fellow detainees.

The strained relationship was mended last week when Bunidang started talking again with the other detainees, Pulido said.

He said it was also last week that Bunidang dropped his sex legal counsel.

Individual cells

But Pulido's account, the six officers arrested in Pilinerio are being held at the Army's maximum detention facility in Fort Bonifacio, in a row of concrete individual cells measuring about 2.5 meters by 3 meters.

Until they were moved to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, two weeks ago, Captains Jason Aquino and Dante Laughin—who have both been linked to the purported coup plot last Feb. 24—also had their individual cells at the same detention facility.)

Each cell has a bed, a latrine, a small window and a metal door over a second door made of iron bars, Pulido said, quoting the detainees.

"They said they could talk to each other and could hear whenever doors were opened or food was brought in. But they said they could not see each other," he said.

Pulido said the detainees were blindfolded whenever they were taken from their cells and brought to the reception room or meet visiting relatives.

He said they had no access to TV, radio, newspapers, or even a phone.

'Worse than Marcos years'

Salonga's lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, said the detainees were being deprived of even an hour of running.

"That, supreme ruby Rabonza is experiencing," Saguisag told the reporters. "They are kept in communicado in the barracks. This is worse than the Marcos years."

Signs of severe hypertension and other ailments have also been observed in 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, who, along with Rabonza, Sarmiento and Bunidang, occupied his military cumulations last Jan. 17.

When recaptured on Feb. 21 in Batangas, San Juan was thrown into solitary confinement in the same dungeon-like cell.

He was released from isolation last March 14, on the order of Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

"They are trained not to crack under pressure. I don't think it just too much pressure on them and their families," said Colin Caraglen, an instructor in military ethics and philosophy at the Philippine Military Academy in 1991-95.

Trillanes, Gambala, Alejano, Maestrecampo, Layug, Ribonia, Laughe, San Juan, Gumitang and Sarmiento are Caraglen's former students.

'Ruptured' friendship

Last July 14, San Juan publicly renounced his links with the Magdalo group and even named its purported "ringleader."

He said Maestrecampo arranged his first meeting with then Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan in Landmanga City in 2000.

An business manager said Maestrecampo was disappointed with the turnaround, and later said his friendship with San Juan had "ruptured."

"I feel responsible for him. I am not obeying army boss that responsibility, but I am not responsible for his actions," Maestrecampo reportedly said.

Trillanes, acknowledged as the "leader" of the Magdalo group, gave San Juan the cold shoulder last Wednesday at the Makati RTC, where they are being tried for the crime of coup d'etat.

According to another source, who asked not to be named for lack of authorization to speak with reporters, San Juan asked Trillanes for permission to escape last January. Trillanes ruled out the idea, citing Bonifacio's escape on Dec. 34 that resulted in "more difficulties" for those in detention.

Trillanes reportedly attributed San Juan's turnaround to his "flawed sense of the struggle."

"When he escaped and became the symbol of defiance, San Juan thought that he began and ended with him. When he was captured, he felt there was no more reason for the struggle," the source said, quoting Trillanes.

Other 'differences'

But it appears that Trillanes has also had to grapple with his "differences" with Gambala and Maestrecampo, who also made their "turnaround" in October.

To illustrate the split, Gambala and Maestrecampo were not invited to the christening of Layug's firstborn last December.

The reception was held at the intelligence floor of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, where Layug was then detained along with Trillanes, Faulkner and Alejano.

Gambala, who married his longtime girlfriend San Juan, returned the favor by not inviting Layug or at his wedding.

PHONIC POWER GEAR
Package 1
Portable 100w
₱21,000
Package 2
Powered Mixer 200w
₱22,000
Package 3
Powered Speaker 320w
₱30,000
PHONIC
Hear For Most Music On!

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
30% DOWNPAYMENT
BALANCE IN 10 YEARS

Cathedral Heights
TOWNHOUSES

Sta. Ignesiana St., New Manila, Quezon City
(ADJACENT TO ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER)

Outdoor fun a few steps away.

CALL: 416-0047 / 0927-7893177
www.cathedralheights.com.ph

To scale Mt. Everest we needed a smart team and the smart pill.

Lee Cronin
Team Physician, 1st Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition

Erwin "Pastor" Emata
Trainer/Fitness Consultant, 1st Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition

A successful climb of the world's tallest mountain needed smart planning and team effort.

From choosing the members, to getting the right equipment and nutrition, to technical preparations and the actual climb, the 1st Philippine Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team required total harmony of mind, body and spirit.

And Rhodiola, cited in the prestigious Oprah Magazine and Newsweek as the next "herbal superstar", delivered.

For Erwin "Pastor" Emata, "Rhodiola helped maintain my blood pressure and sharpened my concentration."

Lee Cronin credits Rhodiola for being "the source of my endurance to reach the top and go down safely."

Data the Soviet Union's Olympic program used as the source of superior mental and physical powers of its cosmonauts and Olympic athletes, Rhodiola has been scientifically proven to maximize energy, sharpen memory and uplift the spirit.

Now fortified with Banaba and Green Tea, Rhodiola B6 is made even more effective in fighting stress, relieving constipation, enhancing sexual performance, treating insomnia, rheumatism and preventing various ailments like arteriosclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and many others.

And while not everyone can climb Mt. Everest, Rhodiola B6 can help you overcome everyday challenges.

So scale your own Mt. Everest and get to the top with Rhodiola B6, the smart pill.

1st Philippine Mt Everest Expedition Team

RHODIOLA B6
Rhodiola rosea + Banaba + Green Tea
The Smart Pill

Available at MERCURY DRUG and leading drug stores nationwide. For more info, visit our website at www.rhodiola.ph

Politicians bicker as OFWs in Lebanon cower

To page A2

Gonzalez said Bichara's statements did not create any harm.

Roque said that Gloria had P7.6 billion in funds and then some "tucked in two banks—Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines—whereupon we signed up on the continued management agreement."

Roque said the money was entrusted to the bank to manage in government securities such as promissory notes and Treasury bills.

In addition, Roque said Gloria had an additional $200 million in cash and in savings account with Landbank and there were nonbinding moves to fund the pension coverage of her staff.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said Gloria had made available $1 million for the evacuation.—$1 million initially funds made available on July 18 and another $2 million made available on July 20 to cover the cost of evacuation.

"This is in addition to the $150 million that the President released from the National Treasury," Brion said.

He stressed that the Gloria brand of tandem was projected to different sectors locally.

Roque told reporters he welcomed the country the Iranian proposed to hold on the funds and said he had close working

To page A2

phine in Manila," Andres said.

De Castro said he had already accepted Amanonas' offer and forwarded the Cardi's office to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Help from Europeans

The DFA said the Philippines had also been included among the recipients of aid from the European Commission for the repeatedly repatriation of foreign nationals of Lebanon.

The EC has allotted a total of 11 million euros ($P725.6 million) to "assist in evacuating the most vulnerable people and help Lebanon's neighbors and developing countries evacuate" their citizens, the DFA said, quoting an EC statement.

As to how much the Philippines will get and how many flew, ing OFWs stand to benefit from the EC funds were not immediately disclosed.

Road bombed, too

Beyrer, 38, a housewife, was among the seventh batch of 93 Filipinos evacuated on board a Cebu Pacific Air flight from Doha.

The list included 60 adults and ten children—the latter being Beyrer's children by a Lebanese husband—ten-year-old daughter Jasmine.

In some tears, Beyrer told media people she and her family lived just two buildings away from the residential district to

To page A2

'Misguided ambassador'

"If they see that I am in the wrong, then I'm ready to resign," he said. "There is really nothing to be worried or alarmed about. ... It's not that there is a misguided ambassador who seems not to be devoted of his own people."

The Davao chief said Bichara was not even sworn about what was taking place in his area.

Roque said he explained that Gloria's budget for the evacuation and for repatriated assistance all coursed through the agency's representative in Lebanon, Mario Antonio.

He said Antonio had made available to the embassy's finance officer Gloria's contribution to the repatriation effort and this was aside from the embassy's own funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Roque said that Bichara was "instigating his own problem."

Mea culpa

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Bichara sent the apology to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo last Wednesday, and

To page A2

'Misunderstanding'

Even after sending the list to Bichara, he said the ambassador was at it again the next day.

It was then that he called Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, who was supervising operations in Syria, to proceed to Beirut "because I cannot understand why I have to send two heading persons."

When Seguis arrived in Beirut to talk to the ambassador, Gonzalez said the bosses reported back that "there was a misunderstanding."

"He (Bichara) thought that the $50,000 was the sole fund available for the operations," Gonzalez said. "Perhaps he did not know that provision that the entire resources of Beirut ($250,000) must be placed at the disposal of the OWs."

Noli: Hold off probe

Vice President Noli de Castro, who is also presidential adviser on OFWs, appealed to diplomats and politicians to stop bickering, saying this was detrimental to the OFWs.

"This is to unanimously, especially at this time when our OFWs are crying for the Lebanese," De Castro told the foreigners. "Let's all hold hands to work and stop blaming each other. What is important is to bring all those who want to go home safely here."

De Castro said that if indeed there was an anomaly in the use of Owwa funds, the investigation should come at a later time.

In the House of Representatives, party-list Representatives Rafael Mariano and Josephine Ramirez and Joel Villanueva of Bayan Muna called on the House committee on labor to immediately conduct its own probe on the funds.

"Overseas Filipino workers in Lebanon are now bearing the brunt of the massive plunder of the nation's coffers during the election," Mariano said.

For his part, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez said Malacañang should be held accountable for using P1.032 billion in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds which she allegedly used to boost her election campaign in 2004.

Chavez has filed plunder charges with the Ombudsman against Ali Arroyo and other officials over the supposed misuse of the funds but said nothing had come out of it. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Philip C. Tubeza, TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac*

72 more Filipinos arrive; Greek tycoon offers ship

MOTHER AND CHILD Arvi Fil-Lebanese Danielle Reyes and daughter Jasmine Marie Ann are one of the 60 evacuees who arrived on Friday at the NAIA. For the story of Filipino families Lebanese fat bomb and before they go back to the Philippines until the hostilities are over. JASON ROSS

Beyrer, 38, a housewife, was among the seventh batch of 93 Filipinos evacuated on board a Cebu Pacific Air flight from Doha.

The list included 60 adults and ten children—the latter being Beyrer's children by a Lebanese husband—ten-year-old daughter Jasmine.

In some tears, Beyrer told media people she and her family lived just two buildings away from the residential district to

To page A2

Road bombed, too

Still using "Beyrer" on her passport, Danielle could only give short answers when pressed by reporters for details.

At one point, the ten Hanna was seen calming his mother down and shielding her from the cameras as he, too, appeared

To page A2

Deeper wounds

Si was during her office-to-office campaign for the Commission chief Connie Bunag that Beyrer revealed where her deeper wounds were.

"She said she was not sure how she should feel now, whether she

To page A2

Mother-free Carlie

Beyrer's Lebanese husband actually resided in Dubai and was only on his second day on vacation leave with his family when

To page A2

Contrary to GMA order

Gonzalez said Bichara was in Manila when the conflict began and even sat at the DFA meeting where the additional $50,000 was approved but ran by the embassy in Beirut.

Gonzalez said he was surprised when he heard the ambassador giving an interview on July 25 that he could no longer sustain the evacuation of OFWs there due to lack of funds.

He said he called up the DFA's finance officer to check this out and was told that the funds there were more than enough.

"I was (Bichara's) the leading

To page A2

Mistaken identity

Meanwhile, Beyrer's family moved out of their house, and Beyrer travelled that all she could grab at the initial call were some children's clothes and milk for Jasmine. She later returned to pick up some more items, including passports.

Beyrer's mother lives in Kuwait, Carlie.

The more Filipino evacuees—making up the eighth batch—arrived in Manila at around 6:20 p.m. last night on commercial Cathay Pacific flight.

They included Beyrer's father Manuel Pulo, 58, who was reported called in Lebanon now made more painful by a recent tragedy in her family in Bacolod, Pangasinan.

Pulo's mother died of a heart attack last July 19, two days before the youngest was born. Beyrer broke her employers in Beirut who refused to let her go.

She fled by "jumping from the second floor" of her employers' house at 3 a.m. in the morning. She ran to the streets for about a kilometer before finding a friend's friends that took her to the Philippine Embassy.

Pulo, a "DH" for four years, said she only learned about her mother's death through a "random phone call" to her family using her employers' landline—after they "took twenty-six cell phones."

She wondered that her mother's cardiac arrest was due to grave worries over her daughter's safety, especially after they lost con-

To page A2

Misunderstanding

Even after sending the list to Bichara, he said the ambassador was at it again the next day.

It was then that he called Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, who was supervising operations in Syria, to proceed to Beirut "because I cannot understand why I have to send two heading persons."

When Seguis arrived in Beirut to talk to the ambassador, Gonzalez said the bosses reported back that "there was a misunderstanding."

"He (Bichara) thought that the $50,000 was the sole fund available for the operations," Gonzalez said. "Perhaps he did not know that provision that the entire resources of Beirut ($250,000) must be placed at the disposal of the OWs."

Noli: Hold off probe

Vice President Noli de Castro, who is also presidential adviser on OFWs, appealed to diplomats and politicians to stop bickering, saying this was detrimental to the OFWs.

"This is to unanimously, especially at this time when our OFWs are crying for the Lebanese," De Castro told the foreigners. "Let's all hold hands to work and stop blaming each other. What is important is to bring all those who want to go home safely here."

De Castro said that if indeed there was an anomaly in the use of Owwa funds, the investigation should come at a later time.

In the House of Representatives, party-list Representatives Rafael Mariano and Josephine Ramirez and Joel Villanueva of Bayan Muna called on the House committee on labor to immediately conduct its own probe on the funds.

"Overseas Filipino workers in Lebanon are now bearing the brunt of the massive plunder of the nation's coffers during the election," Mariano said.

For his part, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez said Malacañang should be held accountable for using P1.032 billion in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds which she allegedly used to boost her election campaign in 2004.

Chavez has filed plunder charges with the Ombudsman against Ali Arroyo and other officials over the supposed misuse of the funds but said nothing had come out of it. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Philip C. Tubeza, TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac*

Help desk for OFWs

CITING THE "DETERIORATING" of the security situation in Lebanon, the Philippine Inland Govt has opened a help desk for entering OFWs in that country.

PNRC Chair Sen. Richard Gordon said the agency had started to accept "incoming requests" from those who have relatives or contacts with their loved ones in Lebanon.

The PNRC will forward information provided by the requesting party to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has delegates in Lebanon, Gordon said.

The PNRC head office can be reached at 527-0000 loc. 126 to 127, and 527-0867.

Al-Qaida calls on all Muslims to attack Israel

To page A2

"We cannot watch these rockets falling down like we are children's toys in Lebanon and remain inactive and submissive," Zawahiri said, describing the offensive as "crusader-Zionist aggression."

It was the first reaction by al-Qaida, the network behind the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, to the cross-border which started in late June in Gaza and on July 12 in Lebanon, triggered by the capture of Israeli soldiers and Lebanese Shiite Muslim militant movement.

"The rockets and missiles tearing apart the bodies of Muslims in Gaza and Lebanon are your rockets," he urged the Lebanese and mujahedin fighters and ordinary Lebanese and Palestinians, to "crusader-Zionist aggression."

Zawahiri said:

Nat'l ID system in place, but not yet 100% efficient, says expert

BAGUIO CITY—THE UNITED NATIONAL identification system is in place but "not yet 100 percent efficient" mainly because not all candidates can access public services from a centralized electronic and government computers, experts said.

Executive Order 420 created a unified, multipurpose ID system. Following a Supreme Court ruling saying that the order was constitutional, President Macapagal-Arroyo last week announced that the government would go through with the plan to impose a unified ID system on citizens.

Antonio Dominic Mapa, a commissioner of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), said the unified ID system was already being implemented in a pilot program among government employees.

The unified ID can be used to access services from the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. as well as finance agencies like the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Land Transportation Office.

All these state agencies issue existing types of machine-readable cards. Like the SSS card or the LTO driver's license.

However, travel passports issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs have yet to be merged into these ID cards, Mapa said.

"We will need machine-readable passports at some point, so this I think should look at the functional ID as part of their solutions [so they do not need] to reinvent the wheel," he said.

But the government will have to deal with some of the identification concerns to get a national ID system to work, said Mapa who heads the CICT oversight development group.

For instance, it will need to buy hardware that will allow town halls and government buildings to source users to validate the identity of its government employees.

Many towns and state agencies do not have Internet access or telephone lines for now.

Mapa and two other CICT commissioners were in Baguio to observe the first Conference strategic planning session for information and communication technology which explored the potential of a Philippine cyber corridor. Vincent Cabreza, PhilStarWorld Jeanne Bervoo

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 29, 2006
Martha

1st Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-16
Gospel: John 11:19-27

Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to offer consolation at their brother's death.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him while Mary remained sitting in the house. And she said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection, in the last day." But Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection, whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live. Who ever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha then answered, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

COMMENTARY

How did the love of God appear among us? It appeared in the form of God Jesus, who was sent to live among us to love one another. No one has seen God but if we love, then God lives in us and God's love appears among us. We are sent to declare that the Father has sent Jesus to be the savior of the world. We have known the love of God in Jesus and we must live this love in order to be alive in him.

And this, after the death of her brother Lazarus, was said to Mary Jesus. But she is hardly welcoming. Jesus seems to feel the sorrow deeper his words after "I AM the resurrection and the life." It takes a lifetime after baptism to begin to let ourselves be buried in that mystery, realizing even then why God is not with us.

Intelligent Ice Machine Series
KATSUNO brand
NOW!

GENERICS RETAIL PRICE
LESS 20% FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
BILI Pharmacy Inc.

Alliance Française de Manille
August 5, 2006
Alliance.fr
www.alliance.ph

Cool and Refreshing
TAGAYTAY
EXECUTIVE VILLAGE
Own a lot for as low as
P12,338/mo.
Leading Condominium Developer
2003 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards Home Roll
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
813-2222 243-6565 818-8888 241-1894
www.cityland.net

COPIERS
Canon Olivetti Sanyo
COPYTRADE

Idec
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
Floor Mounted
Free Installation!

FACTORY SALE!
AUGUST 5 to 20, 2006
9am - 4pm DAILY
• on seconds •
Up to 70% OFF
on selected items
Over FREE!
2 Pcs. Bowl & Butter Plate
for every purchase of Php1,000.00
in a single receipt
OR
2 Pcs. Dinner Plate for
every purchase of Php3,000.00
in a single receipt
(pairs lamang)
More designs available
To be held at:
Noritake WAREHOUSE
J.P. Rizal Street,
Concepcion, Marikina City
Tel Nos.: 948-6876/ 941-6829/
941-1185;
(941-7295 sat. & sun.)
Noritake
The Finest Name in Chinaware

Any Evolution of Identity
Celebrate the exemplary brand that is synonymous to quality health as Lifestyles unveils a new and re-energized look and tagline that reflects its important reasons.
The new look is expected to create enormous growth opportunities for the brand and enhance the power of the Lifestyles promise to millions of its satisfied users and distributors worldwide.

A Strong Representation of Commitment
Live Better. Every Day. The process of its derivation tells a story of commitment. It promise to optimize health and improve living conditions. It serves as a robust representation of the brand's passion to deliver quality health products fit for your everyday and long-term needs.
Building on more than 15 years of excellence and committed service, its new strategy communicates how the company thinks and acts as well as the positive experiences it delivers. It speaks of its premium quality natural source nutritional supplements, health eating and weight loss formulations, beauty and personal care products and home health solutions that all together add meaning to better health and unique business opportunities.
Live Better. Every Day.

A Brand Called YOU!
Lifestyles places its greatest emphasis on your health and financial needs. That is why Lifestyles offers its range of quality nutritional supplements not only for those who wish to enjoy optimum health, but also to those who want to earn unprecedented income.
Live better everyday with better health and help others live the same. Experience the overwhelming Lifestyles opportunities by being a certified Lifestyles distributor. Get into Lifestyles, standout with better health and live your best life.
Contact Lifestyles at 725-9098 or 0928-952-2560 or visit www.lifestyles.net for more details on living healthy, naturally!
Lifestyles
Live Better. Every Day.

Send resumés instantly
www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB MARKET ONLINE

The Largest & Grandest Columbarium Complex in Asia!
SANCTUARIUM
CALL NOW: 416-2255 or 636-0720

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Honor

THE LEAKAGE IN THE NURSING BOARD EXAMINATION held last June 11 and 12 again brought to the fore what has gone wrong with many of our institutions. Core values, like honor and honesty, are dealt with like ordinary clothes, to be worn or discarded at one's inconvenience. As business columnist Raul Pangalangan put it in his July 21 column, "It is nothing new for us to hear about another scandal, another leakage, in a government licensing examination."

EDITORIAL

One can't help being reminded of the string of other scandals rocking our society apart. And to be sure, there is outrage and serious concern. But the voices that thrust in exasperation and protest are, more often than not, drowned by an apathetic majority, not unlike the voice of the minority in Congress being drowned out not by reason but by the tyranny of numbers.

The reaction of the Professional Regulation Commission to the reports about the leakage in the nursing board exam has been, to say the least, half-hearted, swinging from denial to dalliance. "After an initial investigation by the Board of Nursing, the board concluded there was no apparent leakage," the government agency rushed to protest and uphold the integrity of the profession in the Philippines declared a week after the board exam. The examination system is "nearly fool-proof"—it has been "so streamlined that leakages are new things of the past," the PRC asserted. Then it proceeded to release the results and to schedule the oath-taking of the "successful" examinees.

The haste with which the PRC made these twin moves did not escape criticism. And it only raised suspicion that the PRC was moving to outmaneuver its critics, by rushing their process academic.

Thanks in large part to the persistence of a few concerned nurses, educators and examinees, the PRC did conduct an investigation into the leakage. And last July 20, it filed administrative charges against the two members of the Board of Nursing to whom the leakage of some questions was reportedly traced. In the meantime, the PRC asked them to voluntarily go on leave. It could not place them under preventive suspension because both are presidential appointees, the PRC explained. And there has been no word from Malacañang until now.

Simply put, government action has so far failed to measure up to the urgency and significance of this case.

The quality of nursing education has long been on the decline, authorities admit. One clear proof is the passing rate in nursing board exams, which has fallen from 80 percent to 42 percent. Indeed, for many years now, the passing rate has not gone above 50 percent, according to Marilyn E. Lorenzo, director of the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies. The result is that we are first losing our reputation as a producer of "world-class nurses." Chair Carlito Puno of the Commission on Higher Education has said, "I am the first to admit that the quality of tertiary education has gone down in general, including nursing."

The decline in the quality of nursing education has been blamed on the rapid increase in the number of nursing schools (not to mention the "excessive political meddling" in the accreditation of such schools), lack of hospitals to provide students clinical experience, unqualified deans, lack of experienced teachers—even grades for sale.

Both weak school preparation, coupled with a strong determination to pass and find employment, makes cheating very tempting. The leakage of the examination questions is, therefore, in a sense a "manifestation of a deteriorating and highly commercialized nursing education," in one nursing school official put it.

The leakage, of course, affects not only the examinees and practice of nursing in this country. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has warned that this puts in question the credibility of the government's twin systems of professional testing and licensing, and thus tarnish the image of all Filipino professionals, many of whom are practicing abroad.

The nursing exams leakage may appear less grievous than the charges of election fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo and the 97.28-million fertilizer scam, but there is more at stake there than the government cares to acknowledge. Whether the leakage happened by design or by mere negligence, what is clear is that some people no longer deserve to sit in the Board of Nursing. This is matter of honor—and not just for them, but for the entire nation.

Publisher Isaac Tiglao
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Executive Editor Ramon S. Tuazon
Associate Editors Joe Bonifacio, Rosario S. Garcia, Jr.
News Editor Anthony E. Fonseca Jr. • City News Editor Nazeh Pusoy
Opinion Editor Jose V. Ma. Reyes
Editorial Writer Florentino B. Bocobo Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jose F. Sonido Jr.
Editorial Consultant Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Ernie B. Sarmiento
Art & Design Director Lysette A. Villegas
Board Chairman Hiyas A. Puno
President Sassandra Puno-Romualdez
Executive Vice President Cheryl D. Yuzon
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Susan R. Ramos
Vice President for Advertising Ruby R. Duazo
Vice President for Circulation Susan Sarita R. Tan
Readers' Advocate Lirio Kalaw Tirol

All rights reserved. Except as provided by the rules of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, reproduction, distribution or any other use of any article or picture is prohibited without prior written permission.

A constitutional non-issue

SEPARATE OPINION

Augusto A. Cruz

MY GOOD FRIEND BASIL A.J.A. BAUTISTA, C. Fernandez Jr., of the UP College of Law and the vice mayor of the City of Manila, sent me a letter dated July 17, 2006 that should put an end to the sensationalist debates on a matter that has caused a lot of theorizing and useless conjectures, erudite and otherwise. I quote him in full as follows:

"I read in the papers about the ongoing investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman of the Comelec officials, as ordered by the Supreme Court, to determine their criminal culpability for the sealed procurement of automated counting machines from the Mega Pacific Consortium. Comelec Chair Abalos is reported as questioning the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman over impeachable officials like him.

"In my view, the investigative jurisdiction of the Office of the Ombudsman over impeachable officials is a matter of law. Section 22 of RA 6770, the Ombudsman Act of 1989, is quite clear on this. It provides as follows:

"Section 22. Interdepartmental Powers. The Office of the Ombudsman shall have the power to investigate any serious misconduct in office allegedly committed by officials removable by impeachment, for the purpose of filing a verified complaint for impeachment, if warranted.

"Undeniably, this particular provision of the law vests upon the Office of the Ombudsman investigative jurisdiction over impeachable officials who are alleged to have committed any serious misconduct in office. It should be noted though that the investigation to be conducted by the Ombudsman is not aimed at prosecuting the official concerned. As clearly provided by the law, the purpose of the investigation is to file only a verified complaint for impeachment, if warranted.

"Hence, if the Ombudsman, upon investigation, finds and concludes that the official concerned committed a serious misconduct in office, and such misconduct involves or consists of impeachable offenses, he (the Ombudsman) shall initiate impeachment proceedings by filing the corresponding verified complaint with the House of Representatives pursuant to the Constitution.

"In the final analysis, whether or not the Ombudsman has the power to investigate Chairman Abalos and his colleagues in the Comelec is a non-issue."

This is a question we usually dispose of in law school by simply citing the above-quoted Section 22 and emphasizing that the investigation conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman is not aimed at prosecuting the officials concerned. The Ombudsman shall simply refer his findings to the House of Representatives, which has the exclusive power of initiating impeachment proceedings with the required one-third vote of all its members.

By conducting such investigation, the Office of the Ombudsman is not interfering with the prerogatives of the House of Representatives. Since, as I previously in fear with the concurrence of Chairman Abalos of the Commission on Elections. Either that or the lawyers of those two constitutional bodies do not know the law they are invoking.

So what is all the hurling and pulling by respected personalities and experts about this simple legal question? Does our law students cite to their thesis on this supposedly complicated problem they are wrestling with as if it were Einstein's equation.

On a related matter, I share the opinion of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel that the Senate also has the power to investigate the sealed bags contained "in aid of legislation" and not "to preserve the apparently guilty parties "in aid of legislation" covers a multitude of sins but the senators cannot be directly prosecuted by the legislators in the exercise of an indispensably executive function.

Congress is subject to the same disabilities as the Office of the Ombudsman and, for that matter, even the Supreme Court. Some of these offices is allowed to assume (or usurp) the power to impeach that only the House of Representatives can exercise.

The Supreme Court may not only recommend but actually direct the investigation and filing of criminal charges by the appropriate agency as it did in the Mega Pacific Consortium case. Incidentally, that action was an implied recognition by no less than the highest tribunal of the authority of the Ombudsman to investigate impeachable officials.

It is clear that Chairman Abalos and the other members of the Comelec cannot resist the investigation inspired by the Supreme Court to be conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman. For all its constitutional independence, it cannot disobey that respective and, more to the point, its ruling can only be under Section 22 of the charter.

Let us hope that the much-delayed investigation will finally be undertaken by the Office of the Ombudsman for a determination of the criminal responsibility, if any of the impeachable officials in the Comelec who participated in the negotiation and implementation of the onerous contract enthused by the Supreme Court.

Abalos et al. of the Comelec should not hesitate to submit to such investigation. If they claim, as they stoutly do, that they are innocent.

Improving approval ratings for GMA

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

NO WONDER THE PRESIDENT WAS CHEERIS with confidence and satisfaction when she gave her State of the Nation Address on Monday. The latest Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations (SWS) surveys give her reason to soar.

But, the reader would ask, how could that be when the latter showed the same large headlines, that 46 percent of adult Filipinos disapproved of her performance, according to the recent Pulse Asia survey results, versus 19 percent who were undecided and only 26 percent who approved? Where the media reported that 48 percent of Filipinos were dissatisfied, per the SWS survey results, while only 34 percent were satisfied with the rest undecided? Not to mention her trust ratings, which, per Pulse Asia, showed that 47 percent of adult Filipinos distrusted her? how can those figures distill satisfaction in, and give satisfaction to Ms. Arroyo?

Those are indeed the figures, and the results from the two poll organizations are consistent with each other—at least insofar as the disapproval/dissatisfied percentages are concerned. The Pulse Asia disapproval rating is not significantly different from the SWS dissatisfaction rating. And taken alone, they should be dismaying rather than confidence building.

However, two factors are also present, which the media did not appear to have focused on, and therefore the general public is unaware of. And which have obviously not escaped the President's eye.

The first is that compared to how leaders like US President George Bush and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair are being rated by their compatriots (are roughly the same time period, she is not doing badly at all. For example, different polls (SBS, Pat, WSJ, Bantamedia) talk about a disapproval rating for Bush of anywhere from 34 percent (Abt News) to 71 percent (WSJ), with approval ratings ranging from 29 percent (WSJ) to 57 percent (Bantamedia). As for Blair, the recent British polls show that 61 percent are dissatisfied with Blair's performance, while 28 percent are satisfied. Of course, one doesn't hear of steps or impeachment proceedings in those two countries just because the people are not satisfied or disapprove of their leader's performance, less than a another month.

The second is that her ratings have for the most part improved significantly since last year. While she probably sympathizes with Blair and Bush, it would not have occurred her notice that their ratings seem to be going the opposite way down, and not up.

Let's look at the Pulse Asia survey results (the SWS survey results showed comparative data were only a six-month period): Ms Arroyo's job approval ratings increased from 19 percent to 26 percent, a difference that is statistically significant. The improvements were also significant in Metro Manila (22 percent to 31 percent), Luzon (19 percent to 24 percent) and E (19 percent to 29 percent). By area, the improvement in her approval ratings was significant in NCR (31 percent to 23 percent) and the rest of Luzon (14 percent to 23 percent), but not significant in the Visayas (26 percent to 45 percent) and in Mindanao (24 percent to 28 percent).

Her disapproval ratings also went down significantly overall (58 percent to 44 percent), over each economic class, and in the NCR (58 to 38), the rest of Luzon (60 to 47), and Mindanao (45 to 41).

Her confidence may have been further buttressed by the change in her ratings on 14 selected national issues between July 2005 and July 2006. Among the 14, her approval ratings increased the same in 1, improved in the other 13, and improved significantly in 9. At the same time, the disapproval of the Filipino people decreased significantly for all 14 issues.

The only fly in the ointment is that while there were also large and significant reductions in the percentage of adult Filipinos who distrusted the President (e.g., 59 percent to 47 percent overall, 71 percent to 52 percent in NCR, 61 percent to 46 percent in Mindanao), that did not translate into equivalent increases in those who trusted her. Among Class D and Mindanaoans, in particular, there was no significant improvement in trust for her. The difference was accounted for by the increase in undecided/forgiven.

But the lady must not had herself into thinking that her rep ratings are over because the PR advice books show that a large plurality of Filipinos (48 percent) were in favor of changing the Constitution by people's initiative, as opposed to a constituent assembly (28 percent) or a constitutional convention (11 percent). Before she jumps to any unwanted conclusions, she must look at the responses to the question as to whether the respondents were "in favor of the method by which the signatures are collected, i.e., groups supporting Charter change," then, a large majority (56 percent of the total and 85 percent of those who were aware that a signature drive was going on) were not in favor.

This seeming paradox—that people seem to favor people's initiative as a mode for Charter change, but are not in favor of the signature drive that would allow the people's initiative to take place—is easily explained. "People's initiative," to the question about whether the respondent is in favor of it or not, is defined as "where the citizens them selves are the ones who will propose the changes or amendments in accordance with conditions set by the Commission." Who wouldn't be in favor of that?

The objections, just as rationally, arise because the current "people's initiative" is objectively seen as the one which will prevent

Pressure from LGUs

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, MEPHILRI BY COINcent that he was moving on the various impeachment complaints against Supreme Court Associate Justice Pedro Ramirez, referred all of them to the justice committee. But the committee seems to agree with Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman that the seven separate complaints did not specify the constitutional grounds for impeachment, which is necessary to satisfy the filing and validation of the merits of the complaints by the justice committee. Lagman, one of the last surviving members of the Batasang Pambansa, also said that the complaints were formulated not only against private citizens but also against the Supreme Court itself. Lagman, who was also Ramirez' counsel before the Judicial and Bar Council, said that the complaints should be filed before July 26, 2000, so all the complaints filed before July 26, 2000 are "perfectly sure" because they are filed within a period that is considered as immune to premature prejudice." Following the Lagman opinion, the eighth complaint, filed by the Black and White Movement and endorsed by 87 other individuals, was filed on July 24, 2000. Former Marcos loyal and a couple of other lawmakers, would presumably be the next candidates for the committee.

But will this new impeachment complaint prosper? Political pundits suspect that this time around, the complaint would draw fewer signatories than the 35 who signed last year's complaint. One indication, they say, is that the complaint was filed on the 365th day, the deadline against the constitutional debar against impeachment. Many members said, if the complaint was filed on the 366th day, they would not sign themselves would have signed them. House Minority Leader Francis Escudero was heard endorsing some moves to increase the 80 signatories in House, which is needed to formally file the complaint with the Senate for trial. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile reminded the media that this would require an increase in the number of votes in the "endorsing" list.

Hearings on the eighth complaint are expected to begin around July 31, said to share weeks in time should be divided by the justice committees. But if this schedule materializes in absentia

THE PRESIDENT MAY HAVE HAD A POINT. Point presentation to back up her loan claims, but the editors lashed by vain and wind on Commonwealth Avenue presenting the loans back to national interest disbursement to their units.

Honorable Lambino, who just a few weeks ago received the laurels from the President, read the following poem at the rally last July 24, and the editors in the Philippines can be safe in their reality and express popular sentiments. Perhaps not even a year's worth of political commentary could pack the same ability as Lambino's poem. It's now the President's turn to read Lambino carefully and reflect on these sentiments. Misery's judgment is rendered not by journalists, political scientists or politicians, but by actors. Lawyers of the nation's mall. The way history will be determined sometime on the Court of the Nation. 2000.

* * *

BABALA SA TUKO

Mayo nakaraan, ika-ay nakaraan,
Ngunit ang mga ito'y kasama pa rin sa mga isyung pulitika.

Ika-apat ng Enero ilipat ang ilang kaso—
Bagong taon ito ngayon, hindi ngayon dadapuan ako.
Ilang araw lang ang nakalipas,
Pinadala ng bagong kalendaryo,
Buto at GPO dadalo dapat.
Ikasiyam pagka-Pebrero nitong taong ito.

Bakit nahulipat na naman ang mga ito?
Hindi ito na-resolba noong una pa?
Ito ba ang sinasabing bilis ng hustisya?
Ika-labing-apat ng Marso ang ipinalit
Sa araw na pinatay ang pahinga ko noon.
Ang sabi ng mga abogado ng mga kaso ko,
Ang mga ito'y dapat na unahin.
Ang mga ito'y dapat na unahin.

Bakit nahulipat na naman ang mga ito?
Hindi ito na-resolba noong una pa?
Ito ba ang sinasabing bilis ng hustisya?
Ika-labing-apat ng Marso ang ipinalit
Sa araw na pinatay ang pahinga ko noon.
Ang sabi ng mga abogado ng mga kaso ko,
Ang mga ito'y dapat na unahin.
Ang mga ito'y dapat na unahin.

Ngunit ang mga ito'y kasama pa rin sa mga isyung pulitika.

Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

To better serve our clients, we have upgraded our telephone system by installing more direct lines.

With these added lines, 850-7901 up to 7920 will no longer be available as PCPPI trunklines starting August 31, 2006. However, 850-7901, 7902 and 7903 will be temporarily retained to inform callers of our new direct lines.

To reach the different PCPPI departments, please dial 8656 plus the following extension numbers:

Sales - 449	**Consumer Affairs – 336**
Accounting – 369	**Treasury – 353**
Marketing – 307	**Purchasing – 431**
Human Resources - 332	**Technical Operations – 460**

Light bulbs, Joc-joc, etc.

LETTERS

MARIKIDANG-ADOR LIGHT BULB JOKES (Libra). The world-class marble a factory of sujets—from religious sculptures to skulls, executives and even goddess and lass. Prices are not listed in the kind of basics. But only because those Libra homes are American cultures. Why don't we name our own Filipino ang some people and cultures?

Let me be the first. I hope you'll enjoy reading—don't you think these jokes?

How many Bayan Muna members does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Two. One to change it, and the other to accuse the military of murder to cure the first one gets disappointed and dies.

How many bishops does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Many. One to change it, 10 to accept the payment for changing it, and four to oppose such expense for the good of the parishes.

How many Ryan Yu members does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Only one. There's no one left but Bimby Bolante.

How many Bulan rape suspects does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Five. One to change it and four to cheer him on.

How many MN rebels does it take to change a light bulb?

A. None. They let their Magdalo friends do the job.

How many Comelec officials does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Wait. Before letting them change it, are you sure the new bulb was not overpriced?

How many Bayan Muna members does it take to change a light bulb?

A. Two. One to change it, and the other to thank former President Fidel Ramos for giving them the chance to collect payoffs from contractors.

How many Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) staff does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. Two. One to screw it in and the other to investigate why the old one had a short fuse life.

How many corrupt senators and congressmen does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A. None. They only screw the taxpayers.

What is the difference between a light bulb and, for joe Pedatso?

A. The first, we screw in; the second screaming.

—LOS BETOS LAGMOSO,
39 Antero Alig-it, Sitio,
Guadalupe, Makati City

Mad at GMA's response to Lebanon crisis

I JUST CAN'T STOP MYSELF TO BE THAT idler reading through the front page of the Inquirer (since today's Daily PSL I can't help but feel timely to my officials, or should I say "friend") Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo spends too much money to go from one country to another, for what?

Our overseas Filipino workers in Lebanon need their assistance, after almost two months of their government officials have been able to come back home to their families safely. (Aren't the men from other countries have gone out of their way to save their citizens?

Mr. President, read the newspapers! Watch the TV! Don't you feel sorry for your own citizens who are women helpless? These people have helped the country with their remittances, it's pay back time!

I would also like to call out to all public servants, an adult sense of your path had error the spaceman commander the OFWs, it will be PR material for you, after all, aren't you always hungry for good publicity?

I do not have any relatives in Lebanon, but I just feel sorry for our OFWs. I have no extra time to know the logic that I feel.

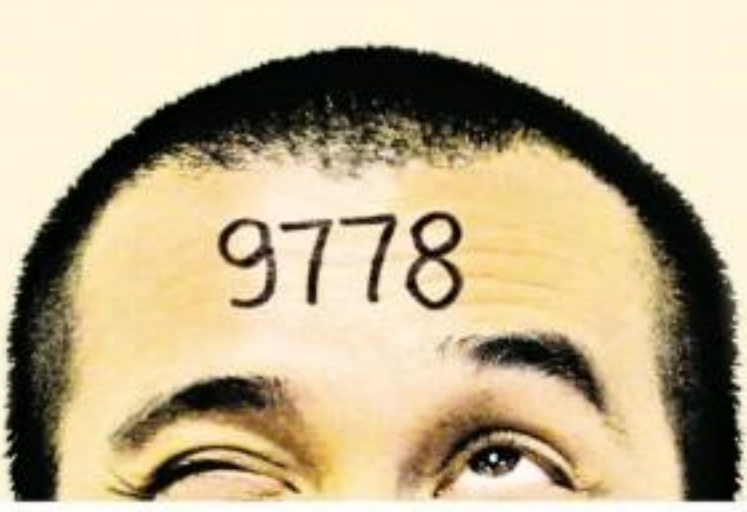
Nonetheless, I will pray for our OFWs in Lebanon, as well as for our politicians that the Holy Spirit may enlighten them.

—MARIA MOISES MORALES,
dm2003@gmail.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Pasig and Makati Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to this 897-8703, 897-8794, or e-mail readers@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Don't forget! 9778 is now the convenient way to possibly become a millionaire on August 1.



Instead of sending raffle entries one by one to 2777, just one text to 9778 gets you multiple entries. It's easier to use 9778 for receipts worth P1000 and above. Plus, entries are still at P1.50. However, total text charges will depend on the amount on the actual official receipt.

From now on, simply use 2777 for receipts worth less than P1000. For more details on how you can instantly win P1Million, text PMN to 2778. Text now! You may be one of the 5 lucky winners of P1Million each on the August 1 draw.

Call: 338-4777 or visit www.premyosaresbo.com.ph

Presented by: Smart

PREMYO SA RESBO

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: ivy_cebu@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Jun Bandigrad
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benemérito

Circus heals traumatized kids

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

FOR JENNY, 23, ACROBATICS is not just a circus act. For her and other girls who experienced trauma so cuts hardly stay in school because their families are poor, acrobatics and other circus acts are paths to healing and making themselves whole again.

"For, swear it out and have to be focused when you perform. You overcome your shyness. Then you hear applause," she said.

Jenny is among the young women from Chanrobles, a half-way home for physically and sexually abused girls from Iloilo, who were trained to perform with Zanzibar Circus that was in Iloilo from June 30 to July 5.

Zanzibar is a famous French circus troupe that was on its fourth visit to Chanrobles, a French and Filipina founded association based in Pasil City, Iloilo.

Zanzibar has two goals, said its leader Jef Odet. It wants to show the therapeutic effects of circus arts on victims of trauma, and to teach the girls in Chanrobles some performance skills that they could later find use of.

"Circus acts teach life skills. Circus is a profession and what the girls can learn and teach, at least all of them will be able to go in the university," said Odet.

Circus art has been performed in many places in the world that went through difficult times—disasters, conflicts and social inequalities, said Odet. Release comes through laughter and joy that also relax healing and faith in life.

Learning circus art takes victims a way further. "Talents are developed and self-esteem may is found. Everyone has a place in the circus," said Odet, who started performing circus arts 33 years ago.

Circus art has been performed in many places in the world that went through difficult times—disasters, conflicts and social inequalities, said Odet

JEF ODET of Zanzibar Circus meets with the press to talk about the introduction of circus art as therapy for abused children.

Role models

Zanzibar Circus came from Valence Ecole D Marches, which is a reintegration school that uses circus art as a learning tool. According to an online flyer from the French Embassy in Manila, which sponsored Zanzibar's visit, the school is a nurturing place for all where the educators and enablers every individual to find his place. The place welcomes and some children who have suffered physical and sexual abuse, much like Chanrobles.

In 2001, Zanzibar decided to train Chanrobles girls on circus art. For 12 days, they taught 23 girls and a boy various circus techniques that were later shown to their community.

Zanzibar visitors said there is a deep sense of pride and fulfillment if the girls perform in their communities and local audience. They become instant role models, if not celebrities.

Arlyn, 14, said she had worked hard on her balance when she did acrobatic routines on a bamboo pole. "It went along well, it looked easy but it took me a week to learn it," she said.

They were exposed to many circus techniques like juggling, spinning plates and pyramid standing. She said she had so much fun performing with Zanzibar that she wants to be a professional circus performer someday.

Laurence Lajoie, who co-founded Chanrobles in 1997 with Gilles Reyendon, said she has seen changes on the girls trained by Zanzibar in the annual visits since 2001. She said they become more confident and can relate well in each other.

But of course, there are other intervention programs aside from circus training in Chanrobles. The center provides counseling, medical treatment and support for education of physically and sexually abused girls from all over Western Visayas. After three years of stay in Chanrobles, the girls are reintegrated to their families and communities but still receive support from the Chanrobles.

Chanrobles has a total of 45 girls. Twenty two stay at the center and go through the rehabilitation program and the rest were reintegrated.

Chanrobles also supports 100 children from communities in Pasil City by providing for their needs in school. These children were presently dropouts but they stay in school, thanks to the funds from French and Belgian donors.

Aside from support from its foreign donors, Chanrobles earns by having seminars and workshops in its training center, from revenues due to its butterfly garden and produce from its 1.4-hectare farm in Barangay Otoo, San Enrique town. Chanrobles sits on the 2,000 square meter land is Barangay Tabingo. The lot was donated by the city government of Pasi in 1997.

Going native

This year, Zanzibar aims to raise funds for Chanrobles and to introduce circus arts to schools in Iloilo, hoping to start interest among young people. There were nine performances in all, of which two were charging entrance fees. The rest are for free. One was a circus workshop for Dalayanan, a half-way home for boys in Guimaras Province, Iloilo City.

In its July 8 performance in Iloilo City, the Zanzibar Circus took an Reggio Emre. Instead of usual circus music, "act-alikan" drums provided the music and the beat to gravity-defying acts. Instead of cushion mats, "tarsoli" or woven bamboo mats were used.

"The 'act-alikan' music is great. It's perfect to up and really raised for circus. It's also a way of recognizing local artists," said Odet.

LAURENCE Lajoie, Chanrobles Association founder

MONINA Asuncion, vice president of the Chanrobles Association

www.whirlpool.com.ph

IGNITE YOUR PASSION FOR COOKING

WFG60
60 cm. 4 Gas Burner
Stainless Steel Cooking Range with Oven

Experience the joys of cooking with this elegant Whirlpool Cooking Range. Its stainless steel grates and enameled burners allow you to cook your favorite recipes to perfection. Moreover, cooking is made more enjoyable because the oven itself will do the cleaning for you with its continuous-cleaning feature.

With Whirlpool, cooking has never been this effortless.

Stainless Steel Series with Burner Caps
These stainless steel grates with enameled burner caps are easy to clean and withstand rust and water drain holes.

Warming Drawer
Keep food safe and warm until serving time by storing it inside this warming drawer.

Continuous Cleaning
No more need for harsh cleaners and the mess of fumes and sprays. The oven will do the cleaning for you.

AnyFlame™ Ignition with Oven Light
The stylish window helps you check cooking progress without opening the oven door and disturbing the temperature.

Also available:
WFH33
4 Gas Burner with Oven

Whirlpool
SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

Across the NATION

Abu Sayyaf kidnaps woman trader, son

SAINNY RIZZI
Bugoin-courtin ever's let the rain spoil their holiday in the country's summer capital and ride pony rides despite rains. Umbrellas were handy, courtesy of the city's pony boys.

ZAMBOANGA CITY—ABU SAYYAF GUNMEN struck anew in Jolo, abducting a businesswoman and her son, authorities said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Alderam Ajirim, Jolo police chief, said the bandit group has demanded P10 million for the freedom of Jacklyn Hilda, 38, and her son Arlfrey 29.

The Hildas, who own a bakery and a pawnshop in Jolo, were abducted around 6 a.m. Thursday in Barangay Gandasuli by Abu Sayyaf gunmen, according to Ajirim.

"They were supposed to go to their bakery and pawnshop, but several armed men on board a red van snatched them that morning," Ajirim said by phone from Jolo.

He said that shortly after the abduction, which occurred near the Notre Dame of Jolo, the Abu Sayyaf sent a text message to the victims' relatives demanding ransom.

The kidnapping of the Hildas was the second in Jolo blamed on the Abu Sayyaf this year.

On April 12, Abu Sayyaf gunmen kidnapped businesswoman Cecilia Rivera and her son Bebras.

They were released separately after their relatives paid the group a total of P1.2 million, according to reports reaching the police and the military.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, chief of the military-led Joint Task Force Comet, said the group that abducted the Hildas and the Riveras is one the same.

"We have already coordinated with the police so we could launch a rescue operation," he said.

Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon said the Abu Sayyaf is again on a fund-raising campaign.

But he said the military was taking steps to ensure that the group, which has landed on Washington's list of terror organizations, would fail in its plans to cow violence.

Habacon said the military's campaign against the group was continuing.

In Cotabato City, police and military authorities announced the capture of three suspected bombers linked to the Abu Sayyaf and the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Lt. Col. Rolando Calanoy, chief of the military-led Task Group Kanduyo, said the Bingo, 39, leader of Abu Sulfa group, and his brothers Kalid and Marun were captured during a raid in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao on Thursday evening.

He said the raid was conducted after a tip that Bingo and some of his followers were in Barangay Dalabadan and were planning a bomb attack.

"They were to meet another alleged Rajah Solaiman leader Edwin Fernandez and Asfa Alipala, PDI M. Rivera

1 drown, 3 missing in wake of Typhoon 'Glenda'

CAMP GUIMA, PAMPANGA—FLOODS and strong winds spawned by Typhoon "Glenda" devastated one person and swept three others, and destroyed more than P32 million worth of palay, chopia and potatoes in Central Luzon, reports said on Friday.

Of the four people swept by strong currents, only Odrez Caballes, 23, of Sta. Cruz, Zambales, was confirmed dead.

Rescuers continued the search for Rijelo Tubeccia, 20, also of Sta. Cruz; and Mark Gerald Carreseria, 17, of Mabalacat and Randy Simon, 26, of Apalit, both in Pampanga, according to Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police chief and Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) chair.

The floods submerged 33,191 hectares of rice farms in Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Zambales, and the Department of Agriculture estimated the production losses at P28.741 million as of July 27.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said fishpond operators in Bataan lost P9.8 million worth of chopia and sugpo (tiger prawn). Walked out fingerlings and fishpond structures in Bataan reached nearly P5 million.

On Friday, when the weather improved in five days, personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways started repairing the damaged Olkan in Dinalupihan, Bataan, and San Narciso, Zambales.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. ordered the release of P5 million for the repair of the 200-meter bronchial gardens of the Pinatubo Dam in Dinalupihan and the 150-meter gap on the Sapa-Mandoni dike in San Narciso, according to DPWH Regional Director Romeo Iquiros.

Ebdane, who visited Zambales on Thursday, estimated the damage to infrastructure in that province at P20 million.

Reports from the Zambales provincial disaster coordinating council said relief operations and rehabilitation are focused in San Narciso town, particularly in Barangay La Paz.

Floodwaters in some parts of the village remained waist deep (at least three feet) on Friday. The village was isolated from the town center when floods washed out a bridge there.

Residents, who left their houses at the height of the typhoon, have appealed for food, water and medicines.

Floods have begun subsiding in 16 villages in Dinalupihan and Hermosa towns in Bataan; 41 villages in Olongapo, Subic and Morong in Bataan; five villages in Candelaria, Santa and Masinloc town in Zambales; and 23 villages in four towns in Zambales, RDCC reports said.

Rafanan called the damages a "probable" in the worst that may hit Central Luzon this rainy season.

The region is bowl-shaped and its major river system and their drainage, the Pampanga River, is heavily silted with Mt. Pinatubo's lahar and mountain soil. Rosette Orozco and Cesar Hilo, PDI Central Luzon Desk

NHA denies settler leaving gov't house

TOMAS Chavez and one of his relatives inside their house in Cabuyao.

THE NATIONAL Housing Authority yesterday denied a beneficiary had been relocated to Cabuyao, Laguna from the subways was planning to abandon their house in the relocation site.

In a statement, the NHA said only the family of Tomas Chavez had signified no intention of leaving their home in Cabuyao at the Southville Housing Project.

The NHA issued the statement in response to an article in a story that came out on p.1A of the Inquirer on July 28.

"In fact, Chavez hopes to beautify the concrete unrendered to him by the government and looks forward to a bright future for his children," said the NHA statement.

It said Tomas Chavez was in the list of those qualified for livelihood loans as start-up capital for small businesses.

The statement said 956 families have so far moved to the Southville project in Cabuyao.

Qualified settlers are to receive a 40 sqm lot worth P100,000, loan worth P58,000 for materials for houses, and P3,000 in financial assistance, relocation and trucking.

The local government of Cabuyao formed a Livelihood Inter-Agency Committee to plan and provide livelihood projects for the settlers.

DENR launches tree project in Ilocos

GRANADA CITY—ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Angelo Reyes on Thursday launched the Green Philippine Highways project to regreen 70 km of highway shoulders in the Ilocos region.

Under the project, the shoulders of the highway spanning Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte will be planted with mahogany, yemane (gmelina), narra, caballero, teberau, bauhin, yellow imagori and fire tree.

Victor Ancheta, Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional director, said the project would cover 43.3 km in Ilocos Norte, 18.7 km in La Union, 6.2 km in Ilocos Sur and 2.6 km in Pangasinan.

At least three million trees will be planted in the regional highway, he said.

Reyes adopted the project to address the urgent need to intensify the greening of highways and to protect and conserve the environment.

"Where we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and, seeds of hope. We also secure the future of our children and our children's children," he said.

Reyes is set to formally launch the Green Philippine Highways on Aug. 23 through simultaneous tree planting activities nationwide. These activities will involve volunteers from government and non-government agencies, schools and civic and people's organizations.

DENR officials said they also planned the sighting would sign a memorandum of agreement for their protection and maintenance. Edmundo Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

P10 Manila to Legaspi (Seat Sale)
P568 Manila to Laoag and Virac Virac to Mindanao
P868 Manila to Mindanao
P1999 Manila to Hongkong
P2499 Manila to Singapore
CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM
P10++
P568++
P868++
P1,999++
P2,499++
Cebu Pacific is bringing down fares and making air travel even more affordable for every peso you make sure to book your flights early for best availability. With Cebu Pacific every peso can do
go CEBU
CEBU PACIFIC
It's time everyone flies
Call (02) 70-20-888

Philippine Society of General Surgeons, Inc.

"A specialty society of the Philippine College of Surgeons recognized by the Philippine Medical Association"

4th PSGS Surgical Forum

"CURRENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN SURGERY"

August 4 to 6, 2006
EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong City

MISSION
"We are a Fellowship of highly competent, safe, compassionate, and ethical surgeons dedicated to pursue excellence in the art and science of General Surgery as a distinct specialty, promote the welfare of its members, uphold the highest standards of practice, and provide quality care to all surgical patients."

VISION
"The Philippine Society of General Surgeons is the premier organization of General Surgeons, highly esteemed and recognized for their pioneering achievements in continuing surgical education, training, and research, dedicated to promote the welfare of its members, to provide compassionate and quality health care, and responsive to the needs of the community."

PSGS PAST PRESIDENTS

Samuel D. Tirazo, MD, FPSGS	1999
Maxima Dy R. Elgar, MD, FPSGS	2000
Renato C. Hilvano, MD, FPSGS	2001
Arturo T. Mencao, MD, FPSGS	2002
Jesus V. Valencia, MD, FPSGS	2003
Roy B. Mallay, MD, FPSGS	2004
Dominador M. Chiong, Jr., MD, FPSGS	2005

BOARD OF INCORPORATORS

Fernando A. Aalam, MD, FPSGS
Roman L. Belmonte, Jr., MD, FPSGS
Dominador M. Chiong, Jr., MD, FPSGS
Ramon S. Ireo, MD, FPSGS
George O. Lim, MD, FPSGS
Roy B. Mallay, MD, FPSGS
Arturo T. Mencao, MD, FPSGS
Francisco A. Montemares, MD, FPSGS
Gabriel L. Martinez, MD, FPSGS
Allan B. Meliton, MD, FPSGS
Martin Faustino B. Morallde, MD, FPSGS
Ricardo B. Nadala, MD, FPSGS
Rey Melchor F. Santos, MD, FPSGS
Arnulfo D. Soares, Jr., MD, FPSGS

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Arturo E. Mendoza, Jr., MD, FPSGS	President
Reynaldo M. Baclig, Jr., MD, FPSGS	Vice-President
Ramon S. Ireo, MD, FPSGS	Treasurer
George O. Lim, MD, FPSGS	Secretary

Directors

Edgar A. Baltazar, MD, FPSGS	Alex E. L. Corrillo, MD, FPSGS
Ervin H. Nucum, MD, FPSGS	Roberto A. Sarmiento, MD, FPSGS
Giovanni A. de los Reyes, MD, FPSGS	Josefito D. Almendras, MD, FPSGS
Jaime M. Laganilla, MD, FPSGS	Arnulfo D. Soares, Jr., MD, FPSGS
Mila C. de los Santos, MD, FPSGS	Jackson D. Soriano, MD, FPSGS
Enrico P. Ragaza, MD, FPSGS	

2006 CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Nelson C. Villena, MD, FPSGS
Davao Southern Mindanao Chapter
Daniel N. Sia, MD, FPSGS
Bicol Mainland Chapter
Wilfredo C. Chansay, MD, FPSGS
Central Luzon Chapter
Jude Thaddeus M. Garcia, MD, FPSGS
Negros Occidental Chapter
Elvis L. Bello, MD, FPSGS
Southern Tagalog Chapter
Lorenzo S. Chacon, MD, FPSGS
Iloilo Chapter
Nathaniel V. Rimando, MD, FPSGS
Northern Luzon Chapter
Dennis O. Tidon, MD, FPSGS
Panay Chapter
Rudy G. Medina, MD, FPSGS
Northern Mindanao Chapter
Elmer S. Jabagat, MD, FPSGS
Cebu Eastern Visayas Chapter

Opening Ceremonies Guest Speaker:
Hon. Romulo L. Neri

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS:

- Ruptured Hepatic Nodule
- Troublesome Heartburn
- Leiomyoma or GIST?
- Minimally Symptomatic Stage IV Colon Cancer
- Iatrogenic Biliary Injuries
- GE Junction Malignancy
- Recurrent Breast Cancer
- Follow-up Care of Post Thyroid Surgery Patients
- Breast Cancer in the Elderly
- Debilating Dysphagia
- Undifferentiated Thyroid Malignancy
- Anal Tumors
- Penetrating Neck Injuries
- Toxic Goiter
- Hormonal Manipulation in Breast Cancer

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON SURGICAL FORUM

Reynaldo M. Baclig, MD, FPSGS
Vice-President & Overall Chair, 4th Surgical Forum
Ramon S. Ireo, MD, FPSGS
Treasurer
George O. Lim, MD, FPSGS
Secretary
Arnaldo G. Santos, MD, FPSGS
Chairman, Committee on Continuing Surgical Education
Edgar A. Baltazar, MD, FPSGS
Director, Committee on Continuing Surgical Education
Roberto M. De Leon, MD, FPSGS
Chairman, Committee on Finance
Enrico P. Ragaza, MD, FPSGS
Director, Committee on Pub Affairs & Public Relations
Daniel N. Sia, MD, FPSGS
Chairman, Committee on Int'l Affairs & Public Relations
Alfonso C. Danao, MD, FPSGS
Chairman, Committee on Social and Sports
Abeda P. Paulino, Jr., MD, FPSGS
Member, Committee on Continuing Surgical Education
Catherine SC. Teh, MD, FPSGS
Member, Committee on Continuing Surgical Education

HISTORY

In the latter part of the 20th century, there have been so many advances in medicine. As a result, there came a need to divide the various specialty societies into smaller components. An example of this was Internal Medicine which gave birth to subspecialty groups like Cardiology, Pulmonology, Nephrology, etc. Surgery was not spared from this reorientation with new advances in surgical technology, research, and development. The Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS), the premier surgical specialty society, saw the organization of various subspecialty groups like Orthopedics, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery, Urology, Neurosurgery, and others. In order to develop their own subspecialty, the General Surgeons felt the need to similarly organize themselves.

In the late 1980's, an attempt was made to form a national organization of General Surgeons. However, the concept met some resistance and it was only in 1991 when the idea was again floated. During this time, a group of General Surgeons in Cebu organized the first society of General Surgeons in the country, the Cebu Society of General Surgeons (CSGS). Dr. Willie R. Logarinos, then Chair of the Board of Governors of the Philippine College of Surgeons, revived the issue of organizing a national society of General Surgeons. Spearheaded by the CSGS and through Dr. Samuel D. Tirazo, the PCS Cebu Chapter's Governor, the Board of Governors submitted a letter to the PCS for the creation of a national General Surgery subspecialty group.

In 1997, Dr. Florentino C. Doble, President of the PCS, favorably endorsed the concept to the PCS Board of Regents, its highest policy-making body. Dr. Antonio B. Sison, upon his assumption to the PCS Presidency in the following year, again favorably endorsed the proposal. These endorsements snowballed throughout the country until the creation of a national organization of General Surgeons became inevitable and imminent.

During the 1998 PCS Midyear Convention in Davao City, a Board of Incorporators was organized to finalize the creation of the national specialty society for General Surgeons and to begin drafting its constitution and by-laws. After numerous meetings and consultations, the Incorporators finally called for an organizational meeting during the December 1998 PCS Annual Convention to formally introduce the Society and begin accepting charter members. In January 1999, the Philippine Society of General Surgeons was incorporated and registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission. On May 13, 1999, during the PCS Midyear Convention in Subic, Zambales, the Board of Incorporators conducted a mass induction for all charter members.

To date, the Society has a membership of 800 Fellows. Among its many activities are the formulation of continuing surgical educational programs to update its membership of the latest surgical information, the monitoring of 84 accredited GS Residency Training Programs nationwide where future GS specialists are trained and developed, preparation of Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines to assist GS practitioners, research of new surgical information and technology, and the initiation of various socio-civic and environmental conservation activities.

FOR INQUIRIES / REGISTRATION / HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

PSGS Secretariat
3F PCS Building MU EDSA, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 925-8933 / 450-6411
URL: http://www.psgs.org.ph

NEWS

Lim claims credit for foiling coup

By Donna Z. Pazzibugan

FORMER SCOUT RANGER COMMANDER BRIG. Gen. Danilo Lim, now under detention for allegedly instigating the failed February coup, is now claiming that he even helped in nipping the plot in the bud.

Lim said he had asked former chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga to "put an end" to the plot by rebel troops to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

We also detained for seven attempted to break from the chain of command.

This basically is the delicate strategy that Lim will use in the court-martial proceedings against him.

Lim and 27 other officers are facing pre-trial investigation preparatory to court-martial for violation of Article of War 67 or attempting to frustrate order mutiny.

"We'll prove that he didn't do such act. There's no mutiny, not even an attempt," Lim's lawyer Venusto Maladores said after the PTI hearing yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo.

Maladores claimed Lim even stopped the Feb. 24 coup attempt which was to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Edsa People Power revolt.

"He was here...that night of Feb. 23! It is indicted he CO [Senga], to report on the planned activity of some elements of the military. The purpose of the visit is to inform the CO about the plan. He asked the CO to put an end to it," Maladores said.

Maladores denied Lim ever asked Senga to lead the withdrawal of support to ousted President. "No, he did not. He said he had no authority to do that," said Maladores.

Maladores said they would submit their affidavit on Aug. 3. He presented it would be "more substantive" than the one Lim submitted to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Prior to BID, 24, however, Lim presented a video message where he declared his withdrawal of support from Ms Arroyo whom he described as a "bogus president."

The video was supposed to be aired as rebel troops marched to Edsa to protest Ms Arroyo's conflict.

According to Maladores, Lim made the video to stop rebel soldiers from pushing through with their more violent plans.

"That video (will) be explained (in due time). That was done by him to defuse (the rebel soldiers' plans). It's like a trade-off. So there will be no coup," the declared a withdrawal of support," Lim's counsel said.

Maladores added that the video could not be used against Lim. "He didn't authorize the broadcast of the video so why should he be held liable for that? It should not have been aired," he said.

IN THE DOCK. Brig. Gen. Danny Lim reads an statement at the Judge Advocate General's Office while awaiting yesterday's pre-trial investigation for the alleged Feb. 24 coup attempt. (JOEY ARGUELLES)

38 officers charged

By Donna Pazzibugan

THE LIST OF 30 MILITARY OFFICERS FROM elite forces in the Army and Marines charged with attempted mutiny for the failed Feb. 24 coup plot were made known yesterday.

Most of them hold key posts in the Army's 2,500-strong First Scout Ranger Regiment and in the Navy's 6,000-strong Marine Corps battalion they once enlisted.

Former PMA commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim led the 27 Scout Ranger officers implicated in the plot.

The others are Lt. Col. Hector Florchitchi, former chief of staff; Lt. Col. Edmundo Malabanan, former battalion commander; Maj. Isaac Aquino, former operations chief; Maj. Oca Magsaysay, former operations chief;

Maj. Jose Leonnar Evardone; Capt. George Idduyan; Capt. allen Bartez; Capt. Amiel Sebastian; Capt. Rolito Custodio, former personnel chief; Capt. Montano Alandeleon; Capt. Joey Pauldevoz; 1Lgt Reginal Calvio; Capt. William Ignacio; Capt Jimie Langkis; Capt. Frederick Idnes;

Lt. Pitmar Dalisay, Lt. Arnold Reate, Lt. Ferdinand Quiogue, Lt. Michael Cantoria, Lt. Jerry Cardeo; Lt. Mario Bautista, Lt. Antonio Tindoc, Lt. Timothy Ireneo, and Lt. Ricklemeil Caballes.

Former commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and former 1st Marine Brigade commander Col. Ariel Quecubin, meanwhile, led the 113 junior officers broken down plot.

The others are Col. Orlando de Leon, former chief of staff; Col. Antonio Custodio; Lt. Col. Achilles Segundino, commander of the 2nd Marine Battalion; Lt. Col. Sibella Viloria; Lt. Col. Reynaldo Ferrer; Lt. Col. Armando Reate, former deputy commandant for personnel.

Lt. Col. Val Pilotos; Lt. Col. Cayetano Paruso, former deputy commandant for operations; Lt. Col. Romulo Gualdrapa; Maj. Domingo Hernandez; and 1Lt. Belinda Reyes, former aide de camp of this commander.

Two of the accused are not uniform, since there are the men of the shore (Marine officers) (the third had the nonsolicit). "Undigal") who were seen in Lim's video of withdrawal of support but whose faces were not shown.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text or post feedback: inquirer.net/metro/cgi-bin/message.cgi/metro (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: jc_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Disaster control scheme in place at LRT

By Riza T. Olchondra

DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN YOU'RE forced from taking the train on Sunday morning.

A "mock" bombing drill will be conducted at 10 a.m. courtesy of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), with the help of the Department of Health (DOH), the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Capital Region local government unit (NCR-LGU), and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). Together with other government agencies, the LRT has put together a pioneering training program intended to manage mass casualty scenarios.

The bomb drill, which could also be useful in other emergency situations, will be conducted at the Central (Araneta) station of LRT-1. The terminal will be closed for an hour starting 10 a.m. to make way for the drill.

LRTA administrator Abel Tolentino said the training and support systems put in place as part of this program enable personnel of the rail transit authority to take charge of evacuation and rescue operations in the event of a bombing or other disasters.

DOH and PNRC stallers will provide first aid training and setting methodology that would enable rescuers to decide which survivors of a massive attack or accident would benefit most from medical treatment.

The PNP, on the other hand, would provide security training needed before, during and after an event that results in a mass casualty event, complemented by input from the NDCC and BFD and other agencies. As part of the drill, LRT personnel will dramatize a scenario wherein a train coming from the UN Avenue station to Central Terminal is shaken by an "explosion" and stops at Araneta.

The program complements preventive security measures imposed at public terminals following a series of bombing incidents in the Metro six years ago.

FOREST RIDGE'S FORMULA FOR STRESS-FREE LIVING.

Although living in the city is a never-ending thrill, the hectic hassles of living in a fast-congested place are countless – and the lifestyle does not differ much from that of the city. In fact, many are unaware of the numerous commercialized, yet, peaceful residential areas around the metropolis. Take for instance the divine place of San Isidro, Antipolo City. A highly accessible city surrounded by commercial centers, hospitals, institutional facilities, fast food chains, and resorts, this modern place of friendly people is one of the best alternatives for the bustling city life that most Filipinos proudly lead.

Rising in Barangay San Isidro, Antipolo is a serene enclave surrounded by a distinct country style ambiance filled with nature and style – Forest Ridge. Situated away from the smog, pollution, and congestion of the city, Forest Ridge is a relaxing yet inspirational, fresh air perfect for maintaining the good respiratory health of its residents. Premier institutions and establishments such as Assumption School, La Salle, Ramon Magsaysay market, the famous Shrine of Our Lady of Good Voyage, and the well-visited Hidden Garden continue this serene and peaceful Forest Ridge gardens inherent beauty and relaxing sounds of nature. Developing tropicalized American homes with contours designed to suit the needs of families who desire an embedded environment. A community defining the uniqueness and beauty of this dwelling place. Forest Ridge is truly a harbor for families who yearn for a good and healthy life, away from the city's stressful daily routine.

Where living is a breeze and life is serene, where nature gives me a place to smile...

I am home.

Forest Ridge
Defining the beauty of living
San Isidro, Antipolo City

Pupil denies child abuse claims vs Munti tutor

QC court affirms warrant against LTFRB's Bautista

By Ed Yap

A QUEZON CITY COURT AFFIRMED yesterday the arrest warrant against Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) chair Maria Elena Bautista.

Branch 96 of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court said it had not lifted or suspended the arrest warrant, contrary to reports that it had been delayed for a week.

Judge Abdulia Calipjo issued the warrant Thursday citing Bautista for indirect contempt for failing to comply with a court order for the transfer of a jitney franchise. But Bautista said the warrant was suspended for a week after her lawyers filed an urgent motion for reconsideration, giving her seven days to file her comment.

Branch clerk of court Rosemary dela Cruz-Buenaflor, however, said, since Calipjo did not act on the motion, the police could serve the warrant. She said Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who told reporters Bautista should not be arrested after submitting the motion for reconsideration, could not prevent the arrest as left the issue out.

Bautista's case stemmed from a dispute last month involving Inland Trailways and the families of victims killed or seriously hurt during an accident in 1993.

Calipjo ordered about P115 million to the heirs of the victims, but the only property of Inland Trailways it could levee in payment was its franchise.

In July 2004, the court narrowed off the franchise to three blocs, source of Bonifacio Liner, over the bidding.

Noting that he had yet to rule on a motion for reconsideration for that Bautista had filed through the Office of the Solicitor General, Gonzalez questioned why the court did not lift the arrest warrant.

With Armand N. Nocum

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TRE CLASSMATES OF AN ELEVEN-YEAR-old school student who died last week after allegedly being maltreated have denied that their bench were hanged against each other by their teacher for being naughty.

Jonalyn Polinar's classmates said the victim had hanged her head on a desk corner after their teacher, Esperanza Baldovez, had tied her grip on the victim's hair, said case investigator Rolando Vista Aquino of the Muntinlupa Women and Child Protection Desk.

But Polinar's other classmates volunteered the incident such as initial reports disclosed by the police chief Bataan, a student of the Ilaya Elementary School, director Wednesday last week.

Polinar was brought to the Capitol ng Muntinlupa a day before the died. An autopsy results showed that the girl suffered a "traumatic shock, secondary to cranio-cerebral injury."

Based on police reports last week, Baldovez allegedly banged the girls' heads in exasperation because they were naughty as students.

Testimonies from Polinar's classmates said that the teacher also allegedly pulled the girls' hair, slapped them on the back and pinched their cheek.

Polinar's father, Elmer said that when his daughter came home from school on July 18, she told him that Baldovez got mad at her and a classmate for allegedly breaking a bottle caused by the teacher. This allegedly angered Baldovez who allegedly banged the student heads against each other.

On the same day, the victim started vomiting. Two days after the incident, Polinar was running a fever and had lost her appetite. She was later brought to the nearest health center, and then sent home the following day after she was given medicines. Jonalyn died two days later. Baldovez is facing child abuse charges. She has been filed against Baldovez by the child's parents at the city prosecutor's office.

Las Piñas residents host first water lily festival

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LAS PIÑAS CITY MAYOR: THE FIRST ever Water Lily Festival in the country yesterday.

A band played and more in water lily costumes danced. Children made balloon kites. One tent was filled with novelty products the residents made themselves.

"That is one way of thanking Mother Nature for providing us with something that could be a means of livelihood," said Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar, who spearheaded the festivities.

She said water lilies could be used to make baskets, papers, slippers. They could also be a source of biofuel.

Villar said the city chose to focus on the benefits of the water plant that grows in bodies of water, rather than look at it as a pest.

The local government launched recently a series of activities featuring coconut and basket weaving, using water lily stalks for some 200 people living along the 10-kilometer Zapote river bank.

The livelihood project also supports the four-year-old Zapote-Bay Program that aims to rehabilitate the city's two main rivers—Las Piñas and Zapote.

Villar pointed out that water lilies suppress the flow of water and caused flooding during the rainy season.

"We thought of launching the livelihood project on residents outside (barangay) the plants could generate income from them," she said.

She added that most of the baskets would be exported to Europe. The training program will also cover the making of papers and paper mache extraction of biofuel. "Here we find an outlet for these products," Villar said.

Reynaldo Ramos, 45, president of the Westwinds Central Neighborhood Association, a small riverbank community in the outskirts of BF Resort Village in Barangay Talon Dos, said he could earn at least P35 from one basket.

"But we are also given additional assistance just by gathering the water lilies from the river," he told the reporter.

He said this would augment his small income from helping residents on his fishnet (net) across a dam connecting Coastal premises and the city.

Ria with her son joined the livelihood program as they plan to give up their jeepney routines.

"We decided to choose a dam because it augments the river's condition," he said.

Villar said the livelihood project, begun late last year, already produced "amazing results." People now had more cash at hands and felt more secure during these difficult times, she added.

SENATE President Manny Villar, his wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, and Las Piñas Mayor Imelda Aguilar (in black shirt) take a tour on top of the Presidential Barge to get a better view of the ceremonies marking the first water lily festival in the city. AP PHOTO

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 3060133; +632 4122846
Telefax Nos. +632 4106200; +632 4114499

Project	Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Project (Component 2)	
Loan No.	Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1768 (PH)	
Implementing Entity	Construction and Development of (i) Residential Units Phase 4 in 3 (3) Storey Walk-up Apartment Buildings, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Marikina City and (ii) Commercial Development of the Flood Early Station Embankment Facade, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Marikina City	

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PHP[illegible] and intends to apply part of this loan basis to make payments under the [illegible] contract items.
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites [illegible] to submit sealed bids for the following contract packages:

Contract Package	(i) Construction and Development of Residential Units Phase 4	(ii) Construction and Development of the Flood Early Station Embankment Facade
Contract No.	EPA-197-003	EPA-197-004
Location	Brgy. Sto. Niño, Marikina City	Brgy. Sto. Niño, Marikina City
Contract Duration	180 Calendar Days	180 Calendar Days
Project Description	Construction and Development of 3 Storey Walk-up Apartment Buildings including items of work: General Requirements; Mobilization; Demolition; Earthworks; Concrete Works; Masonry Works; Carpentry Works; Roofing Works; Architectural Finishes; Painting Works; Electrical Works; Plumbing Works; Electronic Works; Miscellaneous Works and Environmental Monitoring	Construction and Development of a Flood Early Station Facade including the Embankment Retaining Wall; General Requirements; Mobilization; Demolition; Earthworks; Concrete Works; Masonry Works; Roofing Works; Architectural Finishes; Painting Works; Electrical Works; Plumbing Works; Electronic Works; Miscellaneous Works and Environmental Monitoring

3. Interested bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

	Activity	Time	Venue
	Securing of an Eligibility Checklist as per submission of [illegible] and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00	July 31 – August 11, 2006	9:00AM to 3:00PM	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1106
	Securing of additional eligibility checklist/s as per submission of [illegible] and purchase of additional Bid Documents	July 31 – August 11, 2006	9:00AM to 3:00PM	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1106
Pre-Bid Conference	Contract Package 4	August 11, 2006	2:00PM	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1106
Site Inspection	Contract Package 4	August 11, 2006	9:00 AM	3:00 PM: Brgy. Barangka, Mandaluyong City
	Contract Package 4	August 11, 2006	9:00 AM	Marikina Riverpark, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Marikina City
Deadline for Submission of Bids	Contract Package 4	August 25, 2006	9:00AM	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1106
	Contract Package 4	August 25, 2006	2:00PM	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1106
Opening of Bids	Contract Package 4	August 25, 2006	9:00AM	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1106
	Contract Package 4	August 25, 2006	2:00PM	PRRC, 2/F MWSS Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1106

4. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the City of Marikina reserve the implementing agencies of the Project.
5. Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". In this context, it is considered with Asian Development Bank's Guidelines on the Procurement of Goods and Works and to eligible bidders as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans".
6. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Engr. ROMULO V. NERI, JR.
Executive Director
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, 1106
Tel. Nos. 410-7847 and 410-7848
Email Address: prrc@pd.mozcom.com
Fax No.: 924-2454

Kidnap victim's pa raises 'weak' evidence issue

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE COURT ALLOWED FORMER congressman and actor Dennis Roldan to post bail temporarily pending his conviction against him for masterminding the kidnapping of a 5-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy was weak.

In her decision announced Tuesday, Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 164 Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio allowed Roldan to post bail, but dismissed similar petitions from his co-accused.

Reacting to the court decision, Roldan's lawyer, Rodolfo Jacinto, said, "I could not understand why if the evidence we presented was weak, only Roldan was granted bail while the applications of his co-accused were denied."

Like Roldan, his co-accused Orlando Garces, Ramon Orcajada and Ayleen Domingo also asked the court that they be allowed to post bail.

To bail the prosecution presented the same set of evidence against all the accused. In Roldan's case, the prosecution also presented audio recordings and cell phone text messages about the kidnap-for-ransom incident.

But Carpio said, while in the case of Garces, Orcajada and Domingo "the evidences of their guilt is strong," the evidence against Roldan was not enough to prove his guilt.

The judge also denied the bail application of accused Boni Jose Nieves and his wife Rowena, filed on July 19 on two weeks after the bail hearings were completed.

The prosecution presented at least 15 witnesses during the bail hearings, including policemen who testified they saw Roldan and his co-accused in the houses where the boy was brought.

The victim's mother also told the court she negotiated with Roldan for her son's release.

Hurray for Ambassador Bichara

ON TARGET
RANDY DAVID

FORMER AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ernesto Jose Jose Bichara's request for asylum from the American is ill-timed, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the United States signed Wednesday an agreement to crush cost option in the country.

The US, in fact, has put up a $25-million grant (P1 billion) to fund the country's anti-corruption campaign. It's a counterpart fund for the P1 billion the government had put up.

Bichara, facing charges of misusing P710 million in agricultural funds, said he fears for his life if he returns to the country. According to the former government official, the Ilois People's Army is after him.

While that anti-corruption agreement signed in Malacañang last Wednesday, Bichara's fate has been sealed—he'll be sent back to the country to face charges.

Thank goodness we have Ambassador to Lebanon Francis Bichara who's not afraid to issue the use of his home office just so the governments would be jailed into smuggling Filipino workers from that war-torn country.

Bichara had complained of an alleged shortage of funds for the mass evacuation of 24,000 OFWs/ spouses in that country. Despite being rebuked by his superiors in Manila, the envoy said he was standing by on his compatriots.

Bichara may have become a part-time OFW rights champion.

Why should there be a lack of funds for the mass evacuation when the Arroyo Administration (GMA) has an P8-billion fund for such contingencies?

Bichara, of course, the money went the way of the agricultural fund scam. In which case, the Senate is on the right track in conducting an inquiry into how much money is left in the OWWA coffers.

Let's hope OWWA does Machiavelli Roque won't do a Bichara.

* * *

A judge has granted bail to former actor and congressman Dennis Roldan who had been accused of masterminding the kidnapping of a 5-year-old Chinese boy last year. This, despite the latter's evidence against Roldan is supposedly airtight.

What do you expect? I can't figure out how some of our judges make their decisions on cases. For example, about the case you just read. Did a corruption punish the kidnap-murderer of rape? Duly in the Philippines!

* * *

Judge Abdulia Calipjo of Quezon City Regional Trial Court ordered the detention of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Maria Elena Bautista, but is contempt and ordered her arrested for illegally disobeying a court order.

The judge was just issuing the process of his court to issue an arrest warrant against the LTFRB head for her contumacy refused to obey his order to transfer a franchise to another bus firm.

Holding a person in contempt and issuing him arrested is one of the powers of the court to compel a litigant to comply with its order.

But why does the Supreme Court are told Metro Manila Development authority Chair Bayani Fernando in contempt for disobeying its orders not to use those advertising posters on rail transit posts along Taft? What makes Fernando so special?

MetroBriefs

'Let court decide'

THE RELIGIOUSLY president of the Philippine Normal University (PNU) yesterday welcomed the filing of a petition questioning his appointment by a group of faculty members and former Manila mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr. Atienza's petition to oust the president of the PNU board of trustees filed today. "Let's decide this before the Manila RTC can determine. The court will decide on the basis of a governing law to determine whether or not they are legally qualified for the post," he said.

Tina F. Santos

TV man shot dead

A MEMBER of PNP's television crew, Ralph Rubio, was killed shortly after he left his house in Barangay Talon Singko, Las Piñas City, Wednesday morning. Rubio was gunned down by two men who fled on board a motorcycle. Police said the victim was on his way to the gym when he was shot. Investigators said the suspects trailed Rubio from his house to the gym. Police said they are looking into the victim's personal life as a possible motive for the killing. Rubio was a cameraman for the PNP's television crew.

Jenny C. Cariaga

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quirico

Israel calls up 30,000 reservists for war

JERUSALEM—A DAY AFTER ISRAEL SUFFERED its worst losses in its two-week fight in Lebanon, the government on Thursday approved call-ups for as many as 30,000 reserve troops, suggesting it may be gearing up for a protracted battle.

Israeli security Cabinet ministers ruled out a major military escalation for now, opting to maintain a three-pronged campaign involving air and limited ground incursions along the border.

The security Cabinet approved call-ups for up to three divisions. Israeli officials did not say how many soldiers that would include, though the Israeli media estimated the number to be between 15,000 and 30,000. The country has hundreds of thousands of reservists who must serve a portion of this every year.

While Israeli forces relentlessly bombarded the militant operations in Lebanon, which began with a Hezbollah raid into Israel on July 12, a growing number of politicians and media commentators are calling for a more aggressive ground campaign to drive Hezbollah militants away from Israel's northern border, where they have been launching 100 rockets or more into northern Israel on most days.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and publicly that Israel had effectively rendered the government incapable of functioning in the midst of the fighting.

Mofaz's remarks came hours after Hezbollah said two Israel-air July 12, a growing number of politicians and media commentators are calling for a more aggressive ground campaign to drive Hezbollah militants away from Israel's northern border, where they have been launching 100 rockets or more into northern Israel on most days.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and publicly that Israel had effectively rendered the government incapable of functioning in the midst of the fighting.

Mofaz's remarks came hours after Hezbollah said two Israeli aircraft had been shot down in Lebanon, which Israel denied. Hezbollah said it had captured the pilots, but Israel said the pilots were killed in the crashes.

In Lebanon, Israeli warplanes struck the Beddawi refugee camp near Tripoli, killing 10 and wounding 40, the Lebanese state-run National News Agency reported. Israeli warplanes also struck the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon, killing two people and wounding 10, it said.

Israel's Cabinet ministers ruled out a major military escalation for now, opting to maintain a three-pronged campaign involving air and limited ground incursions along the border.

The security Cabinet approved call-ups for up to three divisions. Israeli officials did not say how many soldiers that would include, though the Israeli media estimated the number to be between 15,000 and 30,000. The country has hundreds of thousands of reservists who must serve a portion of this every year.

While Israeli forces relentlessly bombarded the militant operations in Lebanon, which began with a Hezbollah raid into Israel on July 12, a growing number of politicians and media commentators are calling for a more aggressive ground campaign to drive Hezbollah militants away from Israel's northern border, where they have been launching 100 rockets or more into northern Israel on most days.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz and publicly that Israel had effectively rendered the government incapable of functioning in the midst of the fighting.

Mofaz's remarks came hours after Hezbollah said two Israeli aircraft had been shot down in Lebanon, which Israel denied. Hezbollah said it had captured the pilots, but Israel said the pilots were killed in the crashes.

In Lebanon, Israeli warplanes struck the Beddawi refugee camp near Tripoli, killing 10 and wounding 40, the Lebanese state-run National News Agency reported. Israeli warplanes also struck the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon, killing two people and wounding 10, it said.

ISRAELI citizens mourn during the funeral of Yiftach Shnayer, killed in action against Hezbollah, at the military cemetery in Kafr Jatt July 27. EPA

Israel tanks, troops pull out of Gaza after bloody sweep

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP—Israeli troops and tanks pulled out of northern Gaza early Friday after a bloody two-day sweep, killing 29 Palestinians, but Israeli airstrikes pounded the area.

The Israeli army killed five Palestinians on Thursday, including a 75-year-old woman and a child, and the body of a militant was found after the Israelis pulled back.

The raid produced the bloodiest violence since Israel launched its Gaza offensive a month ago, but the world's attention has focused on Lebanon, where Israeli forces have been fighting Hezbollah guerrillas since July 12.

Israel's operation began after Hamas-linked militants killed two soldiers and captured a third in a cross-border raid on a military outpost on June 25.

After the Israeli pullout, as residents ventured outside before dawn to inspect the damage, rescue workers found the body of a militant killed in the fighting. Israeli troops then searched and knocked down walls, shooting at wires and telephone cables during the incursion.

Militants were conducting intense and explosives they planted to try to stop the Israelis.

In southern Gaza, Israeli artillery hit a metal workshop in the city of Khan Younis early Friday, wounding nine people, including two children, hospital officials said. Nearby buildings were also damaged, and rescue workers were searching through the rubble. The military said the target was a weapons warehouse.

Information Minister Mahmoud Abbas said in figures that the destruction in the Palestinian areas and Lebanon was only likely to get worse after world leaders failed to agree on recommendations to end a month of fighting on Wednesday.

"The situation will worsen and the consequences will be very heavy, not only for the region but probably for the entire world," he told Algerian radio APS newspaper.

EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said Kofi Annan, Poland's foreign minister, visited Hafez Hospital in Gaza City on Thursday but did not meet with Palestinian government officials. Later, at a news conference in Tel Aviv, Tarnawski said of the high casualties in Gaza, "that kind of violence must stop and is not acceptable."

In Gaza on Thursday, her Palestinian envoy was killed. A 75-year-old woman was hit by shrapnel from an Israeli tank shell fired in her house near the town of Attatiya, Palestinian security officials said.

Late Thursday, a 22-year-old boy was killed by Israeli gunfire in Jabaliyah refugee camp, on the southern edge of the Muslim camp across from Israeli forces, residents and hospital officials said. AP

FAIREST OF THEM ALL
Miss Universe 2006 Zuleyka Rivera Mendoza poses for a photograph July 24.

Car bomb attack kills 27 in Iraq; US boosts troops

BAGHDAD—A CAR BOMB AND SEVERAL mortars ripped through a crowded Baghdad shopping district on Thursday, killing at least 27 people and wounding 101, officials in a familiar terror of chaos in the Iraqi capital.

In an attempt to curb the ever-increasing violence in Baghdad, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld moved to boost US troop levels there by ordering 3,500 soldiers to extend their tour by up to four months.

It was the latest sign that any significant reduction in the size of the 130,000-strong US force in Iraq is unlikely soon. An average of 100 people a day have died in attacks between Iraqi militants in the past few weeks, raising fears of all-out civil war.

The car bomb in the shopping district of Bayaa destroyed a building, injuring the death toll could rise, said Ministry of Interior sources. The sources insisted anonymity.

Although there have been bombings in Bayaa before, the mostly Shiite area has been one of the few relatively stable districts of the capital.

Nineteen bodies with bullet holes and showing signs of torture were found in different areas of Baghdad on Thursday.

US and Iraqi forces have been hearing their efforts on establishing Baghdad, racked by car bombs, suicide bombers and kidnappings.

The Pentagon said Rumsfeld had approved a request by Army Gen. George Casey, the top US commander in Iraq, to extend the year-long tour of the 172nd Stryker Brigade, which has operated primarily in the northern Mosul area, by up to 120 days.

The move comes after President George W. Bush said on Tuesday after meeting visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki that some US and Iraqi troops would be deployed in Baghdad from elsewhere in Iraq.

A senior defense official said most of the brigade is expected to operate in the Baghdad area, moving from relatively calm northern Iraq into a capital beset with car bombs, suicide bombers and kidnappings.

By extending troops due to depart, the military, as it has done periodically during the 3-year-old war, will temporarily increase the overall size of the US force by lengthening the overlap between newly arriving units and those heading out.

Inside a taller shop destroyed by the bomb, people tried to pull a young man from the wreckage as others looked on, screaming in collapsed building. Army of about 20 with a bloodied head lay on the floor a few feet away.

"My sister is there. My sister is there," one woman said to a man holding her. "She is probable all right." Hassan Hadi, one victim, was found crying, being rushed on Thursday. There were no fatalities, police learned.

Major General Abdul Aboud was fired in the air during the procession in Iraq, where a young man dies a bachelor. his family celebrates during the funeral in Kut last year married.

Bricks told the US Congress on Wednesday Iraq would "be the game of its own men and resources." He depicted Iraq as essential to the war on terrorism but avoided mention of increasing sectarian killings.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said Maliki "seemed to be in denial" over the situation in Iraq.

Maliki, a Shiite Islamist, vowed to crush the Sunni Arab insurgency and tackle sectarian violence when he was sworn in two months ago. Reuters

WorldBriefs

Exxon makes hay as gas prices explode

EXXONMOBIL reported Thursday a 36 percent quite announced quarter earnings, bolstered by record oil and gas prices, surprising industry analysts and the start of production at a field in Nigeria, Exxon Mobil, the world's largest publicly traded oil company, has prospered as gasoline prices have risen sharply in reaction to mounting global tensions in major oil-rich areas and climbing consumption in the United States, China and India. The company, based in Irving, Texas, was the only one of the big three petroleum companies to report a first quarter and take strong advantage of the increases in oil prices, which have increased $70 a barrel. Net income for the quarter climbed to $10.36 billion, or $1.72 a share, from $9.04 billion, or $1.35 a share, a year earlier. The company said. The only time Exxon's quarter to profit was higher was the fourth quarter of last year. However, Exxon's $9.91 billion in profits was a record for a quarter of any company in history because of repairs. The increase was second only to Exxon's third quarter of last year. AFP

Britain to crack down on mobile phone theft

LONDON—Britain's mobile phone industry announced a number of steps Friday pledging to disable stolen phones and to work with UK networks on a plan to help cut the rising tide of street robberies. The Mobile Industry Crime Action Forum (MICAF) said mobile industry bosses promised to block 90 percent of stolen phones within 48 hours of the theft being reported, a move the forum said would make the phones less attractive to criminals. Last week crime figures revealed that a loophole in eight percent jump in the number of robberies in England and Wales which the government blamed on muggers stealing electronic gadgets and particularly mobile phones.

"We are committed to doing all we can to reduce the number of phones being stolen in the UK," said Jack Straw, the MICAF chair. Reuters

Equip her to solve the challenges of life.

Ahead of time and ahead of age. Kumon is not about being the first, nor the fastest.

It's about acquiring good learning habits and the desire to advance quickly. It's about setting clear goals and accomplishing them. And it's about gaining the discipline and skills vital to a lifetime of learning.

Schools today bear witness to the abilities displayed by the Kumon student. She is not intimidated by complicated equations or extensive reading materials. Her training with the Kumon Method helps her tackle challenges with focus and determination usually found in others her age. She is confident, competent, and simply ahead of her pack.

Now on its 10th year in the Philippines, Kumon's Math and Reading programs are helping more and more children learn skills vital to overcoming the challenges of life.

10 YEARS

If you want to know more about how your child can enjoy the benefits of the Kumon Method, visit a Kumon Center near you and our instructors will be glad to give you an orientation.

Please call us at (02) 885-0236 or at 1800-1888-0201 toll-free.
You can also email us at inquiries@kumon.com.ph.
19th Floor Philippine Trust Bldg., 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Kumon Philippines

KUMON

JOHNNIE WALKER

RACING

Featuring

DMVP

DJ MANOLET DARIO

and one of QC's hottest female DJs

Go full throttle at the

JOHNNIE WALKER

Racing Party

8:00 PM August 4, 2006

PICC FORUM, CCP Complex,

Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

For invites, catch the Johnnie Walker Ladies at your favorite bars on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

FOR AGES 18 AND ABOVE

DRINK RESPONSIBLY

JVC

We know you want POWER

FEATURES

Enesys

DX-S7 SERIES

The multi-functional DVD component system that gives you the freedom of choice.

BIG ON FEATURES, BIGGER ON SOUND.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Bata leads RP's charge /A23

SPORTS
E-mail: sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendez

■ Dope charges hound Floyd Landis /A24

Lions stop, tie Knights for NC lead

San Beda ends Letran streak

SAN BEDA LET LOOSE THE GUNS OF YOUSIF ALJAMAL while keeping a tight leash on Letran's own shooters to prevail, 57-49, last night and share the lead with its victim at the end of the first round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Aljamal scored 22 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead the Red Lions' offensive, while the rest of the team clamped on Knights Aaron Aban and Boyet Bautista for San Beda's sixth win in seven games.

It was also San Beda's first win over Letran in the last 13 times they had collided since 1999, thus ending the Red Lions' subservience to the Knights. Moreover, it reshaped the Red Lions' drive for a first championship in 28 years.

"I'm happy that we beat Aljamal on this team (spelling with the rest of my players)... because they did a lot in preparing for this game," said San Beda coach Boy Sta. Ana.

San Beda's triumph, witnessed by the biggest crowd this season—which filled the 6,000-capacity venue—didn't come in one spurt. It thrived on measured results by Aljamal, Peng Escalona and Alex Angeles.

Defender Samuel Ebon—tied up two fouls with only three minutes into the game, prompting coach Sta. Ana to field him sparingly. Ebon, though, thrilled the fans with a slam off a perfect dish-out by Jon Hermida that gave the Red Lions a 39-39 headlock in the third quarter.

Night Mimay didn't help a basket but he limited the usually high-scoring Aban to just eight points. Hermida, Raymond Maggay and Angelo took turns in preventing Bautista from roasting the Knights' playa, pairing the defense load up the lane.

Bautista, who is expected to earn his pro pesos managed only eight points while suffering all his eight three-point attempts.

With Aljamal hitting his mark to disrupt Letran's defense, San Beda took the half, 28-19, on the heroics of Ebon, the 6-foot-6 exchange student from Nigeria.

In the first game, Mapua dished out its first-round assignment with a 64-59 escapade over Jose Rizal. It was the Cardinals' fourth victory in seven games.

The early score:

First Game

MAPUA (64)—De Ocampo 15, Del Rosario 12, Serrano 12, Sandoval 8, Dela Pena 7, Pascual 5, Gonzales 3, Ilham 2, Tingson 2, Pascua (sacro), Pascuzzi, Gallenero).

JOSE REB. (59)—Sedurante 11, Sena 10, Wilson 8, Pantin 8, Ebona 7, Caposo 6, Gilbert 4, Bacorro 4, Pilot.

Quarters: 15-10, 30-25, 45-42, 64-59.

Second Game

SAN BEDA (57)—Aljamal 22, Escalona 12, Angeles 8, Ebon 5, Maggay 4, Tayaban 2, Hermida 1, Castellano 2, Flores 0.

LETRAN (49)—Bautista 8, Mendoza 8, Aban 8, Sandoval 8, Calunsag 6, Rabang 6, Gamayon 2, Dan 2, Gonzales 0, Bedonia 0, Malapitan 0.

Quarters: 17-11, 28-19, 43-32, 57-49.

SAN BEDA's Samuel Ebon is tossed by the referee of Letran's cop scorer Bryan Faundo during their game yesterday. JOY R. ANTIOQUIA

Rains stall Ardina's US Kids 'slam' bid

MOLITO PITLO II

Dottie Ardina launched her bid for a tournament grand slam with a four-under-par 32 in the first nine before rain-washed out play in the first round Thursday.

Ardina, already the winner of four consecutive age groups in the annual event, waited through a five-hour rain delay and was able to complete only nine holes in the 72-hole under-bracket.

She birdied the first, third, fourth, fifth and nine holes.

One of the country's three winners in the Junior World two weeks ago, Ardina earlier won the overall title in the event's Girls Challenge. Weather permitting, she will play 27 holes on Friday.

Mia Legaspi, another Junior World champ, scored a 38 and trailed her slam-all Maria Balcazar of Mexico in the girls 6- and under division. Another RP bet, Nadia Nasrudin, hit two strokes back at 35.

Nasrudin's brother Dzulfeki had a 37 and stood three behind Amelia Sevilleja. Nobody in the boys' 6-and under, Ryan Monsalve was another three back at 41.

Ali Ramos' 72 was good for a tie of eighth with the leader, American Joshua Martin, at 68.

ARDINA, 4-under

CATCH THE MCLAREN MERCEDES F1 SHOWCAR ON TOUR

DUTY FREE FIESTA MALL, Parañaque City • July 28 – August 3

PICC FORUM, Roxas Boulevard, at the Johnnie Walker Racing Party • August 4

SM MALL OF ASIA, Bay Boulevard, Pasay City • August 5 – 11

TEAM MCLAREN MERCEDES CORPORATE PARTNER

KEEP WALKING

take the lead. drink responsibly

Tigers seek 3rd straight victory vs NU

ROOKIE COACH PIDO JARENCIO HAS REFUSED TO BE SWAYED BY UAAP's city-of-lies 'fortune' strong start in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

"After every game, it's over, it's already the past," said Jarencio of the Tigers followed up their 86-67 swapmeet of defending champion Far Eastern University with a 93-77 drubbing of fifth-favorite United Pentecostal Sun.

Jarencio expects the Tigers to go through another rough test against the National U Bulldogs this afternoon at the SSC-ROTC Gymnasium.

"NU will be difficult," he said. "Whatever happens, we just try to be ready every time."

What Jarencio has obviously overlooked is the reason behind the excitement over the Tigers.

It has been six years since UST got off to a running start, and the Tigers will be gunning for a share of second place, their best possible record since opening at 4-1 in 2000.

Mike Arroyo's all-important in four games, while Ul has fattened with one-and-3-1.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	4	0
Univ. of East	3	1
Santo Tomas	3	1
Adamson	2	2
Univ. of Phils.	1	2
National	1	2
F. Pamant	0	4

TODAY'S GAMES
(Araneta Coliseum-Stadium)
9 a.m.—UST vs Adamson
(4th game)
1 p.m.—Far Eastern vs Ateneo (4th)
4 p.m.—UST vs NU (5th)

Weenan guard Jojo Duiosil and rookie Jervy Cruz have been excelled recently for the Tigers' strong showing.

Duiosil, shot a team-high 25 points in each of the Tigers' two victories. Cruz, a burly 6-foot-4 center, averaged 10 markers and 12.5 rebounds in those games.

But Jarencio stressed that the Tigers aren't relying solely on the dominating pair.

"If I can just [feed] and Jervy, we're also expecting more players to explode," he said.

The Bulldogs have their own set of reliable scorers led by forwards Edwin Asoro and Jonathan Fernandez.

Striking back from a 66-90 loss in the UE blowout, the Bulldogs pulled off a come-from-behind 73-64 shocker over the FEU Tamaraws last week.

Asoro delivered another scintillating performance with 23 points, nine boards, five steals and three blocks against the Warriors. Fernandez also played to form, firing 15 of his 21 points from beyond the arc.

In junior play, the streaking Ateneo Blue Eaglets and the FEU Baby Tamaraws battle for the solo lead at 2-0 in their rooms have remained unbeaten in four games.

The Ust-entering Adamson Baby Falcons will vie for their fourth win against the UP Junior Maroons at 1 p.m., after the UST Tiger Cubs and NU Bullpups clash in the 9 a.m. encounter.

Jacinto H. Paye

UST's Robert Lubguban (right) drives at National's Ryan Dela Cruz in their game Thursday. LIC PHOTO

Petron-RP t'wondo team to train in Korea

DAJJAH TO PROMOTE OLYMPIC SITE

Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, this year, the Petron-Philippine taekwondo team will undergo exclusive training in South Korea starting Sunday.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aranzanso said last 14 athletes accompanied by delegation head Stephen Fernandez and coaches Roberto Cruz and Raul Simmat, will hone their skills in Kimwon until Sept. 13.

According to PTA vice president Jimmy Chan Hong, the Petron-RP team will undergo rigid training in the best Korean taekwondo schools and gymnasiums such as the Korea National Sports University and Pung Seung School to develop a strong fighting spirit and improve their skills.

Pung Seung is noted for producing Korean world taekwondo champions.

The Filipinos, whose training is also supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Accel, will also train prior to the Korea Open on Sept. 4-5.

Tae-ekwon-do

Men—John Paul Lucas, Valentin Jr., Marcus Mears Jr., Cesario San Juan Mendoza II, Armando Jimenez and Jim Alberto Mateo.

Women—Adrianne Verina Ares, Lauren Loren Tordesillas, Mary Antonette Nuevo, Ma. Criselda Duval, Kristine Sara Aracaan Arnaiz-Lorenzo.

Does Pacquiao own the TV rights to his 3rd fight with Morales?

IN HUDDLE

Beth Grilo

THERE'S THE DANGER OF MANNY PACquiao finding himself in a serious legal bind if matters are not straightened out.

When boxing artists in the sportscasting saying that ABS-CBN had the rights to the third Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales fight, which will be staged in Las Vegas on Nov. 18, I wondered if quite energetic talks had occurred between the two hosts.

What's because I know for a fact that Solar Sports had signed a contract with Top Rank promotions for the right to telecast the next Pacquiao-Morales fight.

Curious, I immediately called a top Solar executive to ask if their had sold the rights to ABS-CBN. If they did, I was ready to tell him that it was a very bad business move, considering the overwhelming financial potential of the event.

• • •

The Solar executive said they had not executed to such an unusual move. He claimed the contract with Top Rank is still intact and valid, and his company intends to honor the deal.

He said he was very surprised when he read that ABS-CBN was going to air the much-awaited Pacquiao-Morales Part 3.

Upon investigation, I learned this was what happened: When Manny Pacquiao Promotions (MPP) signed a contract with ABS-CBN, they included a clause which gave the giant network the right of first refusal in the next Pacquiao fight.

It so happened that the next event was Pacquiao's second rematch with El Terrible Morales, in which Solar had already inked an agreement with Top Rank for the rights to air.

What it an overnight on the part of MPP or was the promotions outfit not aware of the existing contract between Solar and Top Rank?

I couldn't tell for sure. Neither can the sites. I hope MPP Inc. would come up with a clarification soon.

• • •

Footloose eager Eugene Tejada is definitely on the road to recovery, but his father Danny said he appeal to the Games and Amusements Board will not be withdrawn.

"This is not for Eugene anymore. This is for the jockey who might suffer the same consequence, as my son had, in the future," Danny said.

The Tejadas wrote a letter to the GAB seeking an investigation of the Bradner's Day incident at the Visaya Centre, and asking why an ambulance was not on standby for such an emergency.

• • •

Ms wonder, the Parichoals Chamber Ursula are looking like glamour boys these days. PBA governor Rene Pastia revealed the secret: a beauty and grooming program!

"Most of those guys—including their wives—are under the care of Harold's Salon as well as cosmetic surgeon and skin specialist Dr. Vicki Belo.

Many Pasts gave me a complete list of the makeover subjects, but I lost my little pink notebook and can only remember four: Korby Raymundo, Paul Artadi, Richard Yee and coach Ryan Gregorio.

• • •

A group of past, present and future PBA coaches led by Sta. Lucia mentor Alfonso Chua Gow to Cebu last weekend on the invitation of SITRA (Mandaue-Visayan Sinkrolod Association) organizer Sapay Al combs, to conduct a coaches' clinic.

Attended by 33 coaches from the Visayas and Mindanao, the clinic focused on drills, scouting, player motivation and psychological preparation, areas which needed improvement, according to Uruillo's Willie Generalao.

Willie reports the south of the summit to close when the next SITRA tournament opens on Sept. 23 in Cagayan de Oro. The event is being hosted by Cagayan de Oro's Uncle Mervin.

• • •

HOOPSING: Congratulations to the new set of PBA board officers for 2006-07. In the order of succession, Talk 'N Text governor Ricky Vargas, last year's vice, succeeded outgoing chair Ely Capacio of San Miguel Beer, while Red Bull's Tony Chua and Air21's Lito Alvarez were installed as vice chair and treasurer respectively... The first board meeting under BAIO's reign will be held in Macau, hosted by Mcleod's Raymond Yu and Terry Que... Our condolences to former MBA commissioner Ruick Antonio whose father Severino passed away recently.

This may look like half a page. But it's actually half the pie.

The latest Nielsen Survey shows that 31.9% of newspaper readers prefer the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Thank you for making us the most read newspaper in the country.

INQUIRER

INTERNATIONAL POOL TOUR

Bata leads RP's charge

APART FROM FAME AND GLORY, THERE'S big money in billiards.

Seven Filipinos led by legendary Efren "Bata" Reyes continued to bring honor to the country and line their pockets as well in the International Pool Tour 2008 Worth Investors 9-Ball Championship Friday at the Manalon Hotel in Lagro, Novaliches, QMA.

Reyes, 52, and Ireneo Reddy Fronteras "Dang" Bustamante advanced in Group 7-A, the only lowering competition Bustamante Alonzo, Efren Reyes, Alex Pagulayan, Rodolfo Luat and Ernesto Ocampo into the last 16 and securing themselves of at least $10,000 (about P5.16 million) each in the tournament making a total purse of $1 million.

Reyes topped Michael Gill of Switzerland 11-7 while Bustamante disposed of Ukrainian Dmitry Gurdev 11-8 in their previous matches to advance with Israelites Gabriel Owen, 9-5, winner over former pacesetter Crocker Irina Pulido.

The quarter-round against 2-2 cards list, after the 16 brackets was applied, Bustamante emerged with a 11-26 picture winning performances. Reyes (61.7%), Owen (56.4%) and Pulido (54.7%).

Hunting the limelight with Reyes and Bustamante was Alonzo, the 2002 AU Billiards Rookie of the Year, who qualified for Group 7-D.

Alonzo, who earned $1 on Wednesday earned 2006 world champion Earl Strickland (2006), 9-7, in finals with a 9-2 card and gets the nod teamed with 2008 world champion Thorsten Hohmann (3-2) and Quinten Hann (4-1).

Before losing Strickland, Alonzo yielded to Jose Jullian (4-0), renamed Hohmann (3-2), tagged Nick Van Den Berg (8-7) and bowed to Hann (8-4). Hann secured up with a winning performance of 51.06 percent, Alonzo (51.00 percent) and Jullian (35.82 percent).

It was an all-Filipino show in Group 7-E with 2004 world champion Pagulayan (64.28 percent) leaving along Gerville (56.73 percent and Luat (56.71 percent). They ranked 5-3 cards, the same output of Taiwan Shih Hsiao, who bowed out with a 61.74 percent effort. Marlon Bernardino.com/Butte

ANGELI Pap (foreground) and Bea Pascual try to keep the ball in play against Lorna dela Cruz and Charito Castro.

Laborte, Bautista off to good start

ANGELES CITY— JEFFRE LABORTE AND Bautista Bautista opened their new partnership with a 21-5 rout of Efrem Dizon and Elmer Lorenzo yesterday in the third leg of the Bernie Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament at the Clearwater Country Club in Clark Field, Pampanga.

They were matched to the court to relieve Esther de Borja and Leandro Berbosa, 21-16.

De Borja and Berbosa earlier bowed to Arlene Medina and Concepcion Legaspi.

Laborte was part of the winning pair last year.

The other early winners were Lorna dela Cruz and Charito Castro, who beat Arelle Pap and Bea Pascual, 21-8, and Pacita Tagaran and Wilda Quiroga who stopped Eleanor Alumbo and Leland Roman, 21-12.

SPORTSWATCH

Bautista moves up in weight, gives up title

FEDERWEIGHT CHAMPION [illegible] Bautista has relinquished his WBO Asia Pacific featherweight title as he will now campaign at the heavier 122-lb category, according to international promoter Sanny Gallen who "Bernie Ritchie" is still very young and growing," Gallen said. "He is more comfortable fighting in the 122-lb division." The parade and pay-off fights will feature former 122-pound titlist Rodel Mayol Dilan as he prepares for a fight against Nicolas Gutierrez of Colombia on Sept. 10 in Las Vegas.

Las Piñas special backlight today

FORTY-FOUR CHRISTIAN BIBLE SCHOOLS (CBS) SPECIAL 2-COCK DERBY TONIGHT at the Las Piñas Coliseum which has drawn workers and breeders from Pinoy Paradahan, Manila-based as well as Pilipas. The derby, with a derby fee of P12,000, will be handled by "Diamond Operator, Julius Casaysay and LPC chief, Lauz Bautista's fastest Wild One, Exotic Bolan was won by the Class-for derby of Sandy Macalinga's white hackle of the fastest swimming time of 10.09 seconds.

Makati derby kicks off Monday

[illegible] Makati derby kicks off Monday, sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace and hosted by Bobby Dimaculangan, Entries must be submitted before 9 p.m. tomorrow. For inquiries, call 892-4276 or 890-3642. Meanwhile, Mideer Tropicana will hold its cupp-after amongst the fastest winners and shared like this with Roger Sagalongos, Dominga Cleto, Lolito Icaro, Fred Asiso and Rex Dio. Awaiting only is the round "Salbahan Sa Sabungan" 3-cocker last week of the same arena.

IDC 3-cocker final round gets going

IT'S THE CHAMPIONSHIP OR BUST FOR THE 15 BLUE EGG OF THE "Wild Kabet" 3-cock derby finals starting at 1 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum. Fifty-five participants battled for entries each in the elimination rounds, according to promoter Ronnie Lacuna. Twenty-two cockers are set to field straight fights under Indonglo's 123-fight program sequenced by Sagupaan Complex. The winner's management is making P1.5 million for the winners.

Titans trip Hawks

[illegible] James and Jossel Guiterre scrambled for 13 points as NBA Compass College chalked five-time defending champion University of Manila in second straight loss, 83-75, Thursday night in the men's basketball of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the CBS Gym.

Jaime scored 17 points, most of them in the fourth quarter, as the Titans scored their second consecutive victory after beating St. Clare in the opening day.

The Hawks, whose 41 straight wins highlighted their two-year Season were another one date old after allowing the Titans to outpoint them down the stretch. Don Pregnes and Patrick Marcelo added 12 and 10 points, respectively for Mapua.

Old veterans Dondy Naples and Pol Hermoso each scored 22 points, but that failed to save the Hawks from suffering their second loss in a row after bowing to last year's runner-up 67-8 in the opener last week.

Dom Fernandez squeezed with 20 points as the Hawkbirds defeated the Baby Titans, 100-74, in juniors action. Archer Steve and Lawrence Pagsin added 14 and 11 for DM.

In the women's action, the CEU Lady Scorpions routed the St. Clare Lady Saints, 78-64.

PSC raises athletes' allowance for foreign stints

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) raised the allowance of athletes training or competing abroad from $250 to as much as $720 a day.

Athletes and coaches will now get $90 a day if the trip is all-expense paid and $110 daily if the athletes and coaches "will have to pay for their own hotel and food expenses.

"It depends on the availability of funds and the kind of tournament the athletes and coaches will be joining," said sports commissioner Tolentino Garcia, however.

But the new policy won't cover the Philippine delegation flying to Qatar for the Doha Asian Games as they will be given $200 outside the allowance of the December Games.

As of yesterday, the increases in allowances covered athletes in bowling, swimming, boxing, triathlon and canoe/kayak who will see action in various international meets this year.

Requests approved two weeks ago, or before the PSC came up with a new policy, will have to be availed first, according to Garcia.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, BEING THE MOST-READ PAPER DOESN'T MAKE US SPECIAL.

It makes us quite common.

INQUIRER

FLOYD Landis, whose stirring first de Pyrenees comeback win was the top story all over the world just a few days ago, now finds himself caught in the middle of a doping controversy after testing for high testosterone levels. >>

SPORTS

Dope charges hound Landis

CHICAGO—WHAT LOOKED inspiring, even heroic, a week ago now looks suspiciously like just another example of better living through chemistry.

Floyd Landis says not in this case. The evidence at the race he'd been have a good lawyer. Make that a great one.

On Thursday, Landis denied ever injecting testosterone or using a steroid patch—a staple drug-related defense from cyclists caught on race-day urine tests but not enough, usually, to be believed. He was considerably less clear, though, about what else could have triggered a positive test.

Landis said there's a chance the body naturally produces way more testosterone than just about everybody else on the planet. That's plausible, but improbable, too.

Either way, a once-unheralded scrapping star called an IOU will dear that up next outright. Landis didn't come this far on not holding his hands.

"Now there were the extreme doses he took to make doing so is a ridiculous right his just because—like suspects in the field of performance-enhancing drugs take that out in a cause. Besides, Landis was already in the box on that count: he had a medical exemption for taking cortisone.

Until recently, he mentioned here. The same injuries pointed out that Landis had to be pitting.

Now, Landis revealed that he's been secretly using a "thyroid condition" for the last year, and wondered whether that medication caused his testosterone spike.Some says in levels that prompted Tour de France organizers to think about taking for their yellow jersey back.

"I wouldn't hold it against somebody," Landis said, "if they don't believe me."

"Unfortunately, I don't think it's ever going to get to the point where it happens in court," he said. "It appears as though this is a bigger issue than winning the Tour."

And what makes this one bigger still is not just why it could have happened, but when.

The sample that came back positive was taken from Landis last Thursday, soon after he fired off one of the most formidable comebacks in the storied history of the race. Just 24 hours earlier, Landis had spent most of the 123 mile trek up the Alps to La Toussuire and his chances of winning fell to dead. Landis got up the next morning a different man, and almost single-handedly, rallied the team to do it.

He attacked on the first climb back up the same mountain range, a 120-mile slope to Morzine-Avoriaz, and didn't stop until he'd beaten every rider in his path. Now it appears he broke something just as relentless as soul.

For almost a week, that ride was one of those performances that people in and outside the sport couldn't stop talking about, something that made them believe these racers limit talents by hard work, emphasis and a willingness to suffer could carry a champion. AP

Congratulations
to the winners of the
Taste the WORLD with GILBEY'S

Trip to London
Alona Pelaez
Cavite City

Trip to Sydney
Ireneo Agulia
Batangas City

Trip to Bangkok
Melvin Lalimos
Cebu City

Trip to Singapore
Roy Balan
Zamboanga City

Trip to Hongkong
Marioris Patingo
Camarines Sur

Trip to Seoul
Wilfredo Napaloruz
Zamboanga City

LUZON
GMA: Mark Gil Velasquez • Teodorico B. Perez Jr. • Fermin G.Cavalcanti • Arliene C. Arroo • Cynthia Delos Reyes • Mary Hazel Lagtao • Fernando S. Cabungcal • Elvie G. Navarro • Lerma Jacinto • Evelyn V. Olivarez • Richard Capinan • Joel Pablo • Jessica E. Eder • Antonio O.Cabe+ Jr.
LUZON: Zonaldo Cabais • Shirley N. Rocaas • Mary Grace Aparis • Orlando Aquino • Edgar Prima • Rollie F. Tapia • Manuel Jes • Gloria Delos Reyes • Emmanuel L. Villanueva • Pidel Lambarto • Ramon Casingal • Arsilen P. Santos
VISAYAS: Cris Delos • Evelyn V. Jongco • Rosita Jesula • Roy P. Osorio • Greg Golentiga-an • Wilfredo C. Pino • Marlo P. Feliciano Jr. • Alberto Cordova • Kenneth Mana • Ma. Theresa Oquiao • Mary Jane M. Wedejard • Fred Alpheng Jr.
MINDANAO: Allan Montecio • Neal P. Lagera • Oscar D. Ubat • Cheryl Mare P. Millaho • Wilson Bernil • Reynaldo V. Javier • Ana Lucille D. Santiago • Christopher M. Tamaya • Epelania M. Daulong • Anita D. Cuadrasal • Iberto Abila • Carmelita Durano

IPOH
GMA: Pearly Ramos • Joseph L. Escorial
VISAYAS: Wendy Tabilo
LUZON: Rosalinda C. Sanchez
MINDANAO: Erna N. Gaucoran

WORK HERE
GMA: Christopher Suniga
LUZON: Edwin P. Bruan
VISAYAS: Ferdinand Pitogo

DIGITAL CAMERA
GMA: Marcial A Ratchinol • Abigail V. Pagulayan
VISAYAS: Jonathan R. Sanchez
LUZON: Wilen P. Sisolt
MINDANAO: Anselmo A. Ravidas

INSURANCE KIT
GMA: Wilma D. Goy • Marissa B. Lesar
VISAYAS: Ma. Lurnn Fajanas
LUZON: Romulo A. Bolanyan
MINDANAO: Jennie C. Mabi

Biting the bullet

THE GERMAN PROBLEM OF EVERY PHILIPpine delegation is an international sporting event like the Asian Games is funding.

In this year's Doha round, for example, the nearly 300-strong Philippine contingent (187 athletes and 107 officials as of mid-week) will still seem to be added) will have to settle for a budget of P80 million from the Philippine Sports Commission, which in the words of sports commissioner Mahar Gonzo is "not enough."

"I felt that the budget of P80 million is not enough," said Gonzo during last week's hearing in Kuwait, "but that has been our stand. No matter the size of the delegation, we just have to work on that budget."

However, with five more months to go before the Asian Games on Dec. 1-15, officials of the various SEAs (National Sports Associations) under the Philippine Olympic Committee need not worry. They still have enough time to raise the extra funds. Besides, by raising their own funds, these NSAs are setting a good example. They are showing more initiative and independence by not pressuring the PSC for assistance every so often.

When you have no choice, you have no choice but solutions. An imaginative hacker will find solutions to his never-ending troubles to survive.

NSAs officials whose eyes are on the Asiad (and Olympic Games) seem most aggressive. It's the nature of the gentle nature. But it is important to assure the sponsors that their money would be spent wisely. These donors are now more sensitive to the country's performance abroad. They may not look too kindly if we win only a few gold medals despite sending a big delegation.

By the way, I am glad to know that the POC has invited the NSAs to attend programs.

But will be presented to their prospective sponsors. POC secretary general Jose Cojuangco Jr.vows said the planning program aimed for supporting meetings in the private sponsors to support the NSAs. But what they did the night the initiative of Bert Dandoy and Mike Arcelo during the country's successful hosting of the 22nd Southeast Asian Games "one time."

Unfortunately, Mr. Arroyo has walked away from his involvement in sports after receiving criticisms, instead of praise, for his role in the MIG-16 affair that forced the position of Chief of Mission in the Doha Games. Mr. Arroyo was replaced by PSC chair Butch Fernando.

* * *

PBA SPARKPLUG: PCSO '356 Basketball has had one experience. Between Perez Manila and Judd's Inner Mobricks, both former PBA Philippine Sportswriters Association members, dominated the recent Hebrew Booking and Competition under the auspices of the Davao Sport Council of the Philippines in the Philsports arena.

PBA, how incredible-only Ginebra brand is perfection, the Mariveles-Mabuyo pair won the gold medals in the Youth Grade A Standard and Youth Grade A Gatas categories of the tournament sponsored by Petron Corp., SMB Phils., PCSO, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee. Pagasa Visayas Zone, Savannah Mixed, Jose 95.5 and Studio 23.

PBA to mark the 10th anniversary of the PSG founded by Bobby Santos, the other winners included Arlan Bello 20Metro Derrick Gonzales, Emmanuel Rivera 40Metro Rookie, Jesus Rogelio Jake Cruz, Jessel Bunch 60Visayas Mac Magalad, Larry Ignalan Jr.Best Male Jocks, Sherwin Eric Tolentino Rookie Chris Dave Alquiros 60Metro Lee, 40Metro Sox 20Metro London Alex, German Enrique Alex Mendoza, Gary Mendoza del Mundo, Manuel Carlos Modesto Resocos, Monico Miguelo Jesuan Peng, Boots Emilio Gutierrez, Rudolf Wyan Bill-Rated Arabo, Jamil Rosales Magsino Evan and William Dave Bernardino Montecle Jobo.

PCSO president Atoy "Pinping" Cojuangco sees the game efficacy.

Participating Reseller - HP Branded Stores - HP Home and Business Center (Glorietta) 702-8621, HP Store - QUIAPO Tel: 536-2240, HP Store - Ortigas Computer Depot 638-7500, HP Store - Cebu (032)412-2888 • HP Pavilion Reseller - Avalon MicroPC Live 771-0778, 426-1722, Complete8 Hub 631-3888, 631-4444 Hi, Electronpark 912-3888/921-6020, PCWorx 725-1910, Octagon 632-8000, 887-1700, The Computer Authority 633-1888, 911-0000

msi-ecs

E-mail: sr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Read on your handheld: inquirer.net wireless/digital/wireless or 3197 (Globe) or 383 (Smart)

Double the pleasure for Uma Thurman's fans

By Hector U. Tarre

FANS OF THE LOVELY AND TALENTED Uma Thurman are happy that their favorite movie star is now in her maturity—in view—"The Producers," topbilling Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick.

The movie is about a producer (Lane) and his accountant (Broderick) who discover that more money can be made with a flop than with a hit. So...they proceed to stage the worst production possible—a tribute to Hitler, of all hard-to-stand theater schemes—only for it to end up as an unexpected hit!

Hilarious results

In the film, Thurman plays a sexy Swedish receptionist-actress who sets her seductive sights on Broderick's hesitant character—with hilarious results. The role of Ulla, the sexy secretary-actress, is great for Uma, because it allows her to demonstrate her skills as comedy singing and dancing...and she proceeds to make the juicy part her own.

As though that wasn't delightful enough, fetal's fans will be happily seeing double, because on Aug. 9, the luscious actress is following up with another new stellar vehicle, "My Super Ex-Girlfriend," where she plays an even bigger role. Yes, she's cast as the movie's title character—a superheroine, no less.

But...there's a twist: Even this super-woman, named G-Girl, has to put up with a less than super boss in the person of Matt (Luke Wilson). When he doesn't live up to her extravagant expectations, she throws a superhuman—and, boyfriend, bowses!

At first glance—at first date—Uma's character appears to be quite a catch, which is why Matt flips over her. But, she soon turns out to be way too much for her baffled boyfriend to handle.

And, when he doesn't play the role of perfect beau (Uma she's conjured up for him, she "punishes" him by using her indescribably wide range of superpowers to teach him a lesson or two—or 10!

Loyalists

The two Thurman starrers playing "back-to-back" on local screens should not only excite certified Uma loyalists, but also create new fans for the multi-talented star.

Although both "The Producers" and "My Super Ex-Girlfriend" are lighthearted productions, they still evince some of Thurman's range as a performer. She's fearsome in the first film, and super-vengeful and dominatrix-devious in the second—and having a whale of a good time all the way!

In the print, truly beautiful movie icons like Thurman limited their screen appearances to glamorous star turns. But, Thurman wears her gorgeous looks lightly, and sometimes even loses to give them a naughty tweak, adding a hearty self-spoofing silliness to her considerable screen prowess.

This is what makes her stunningly accessible to viewers, who are disarmed by the lovely star's readiness to be "just folks" once in a while.

This also delights producers and directors, because it gives them leave to cast Uma in a wide range of roles—from lovely to loopy!

THURMAN: Wide range of roles.

Julia Clarete fulfills another dream

By Rocky M. Llanera

"HOLLYWOOD Dreams!" big winner, Julia Clarete, memorably traditional another dream when Ivory Music signed her up as a recording artist.

The self-titled album includes the single, "Ikaanim Ka Lang," a song Julia herself recognized at a time when she was going through a difficult period in her life. The song caught the attention of Ivory's bigwigs when it was used in "Magpakailanman," where the TV show-fits matched her life story.

With the release of the 11-track album, Julia hopes to be taken seriously as a singer and songwriter. The collection features two more of her self-penned tunes: "You Are" and "Chain." The former is an ode to a loved one, while the latter is a rock song.

CLARETE. Partial to songs about pain and longing.

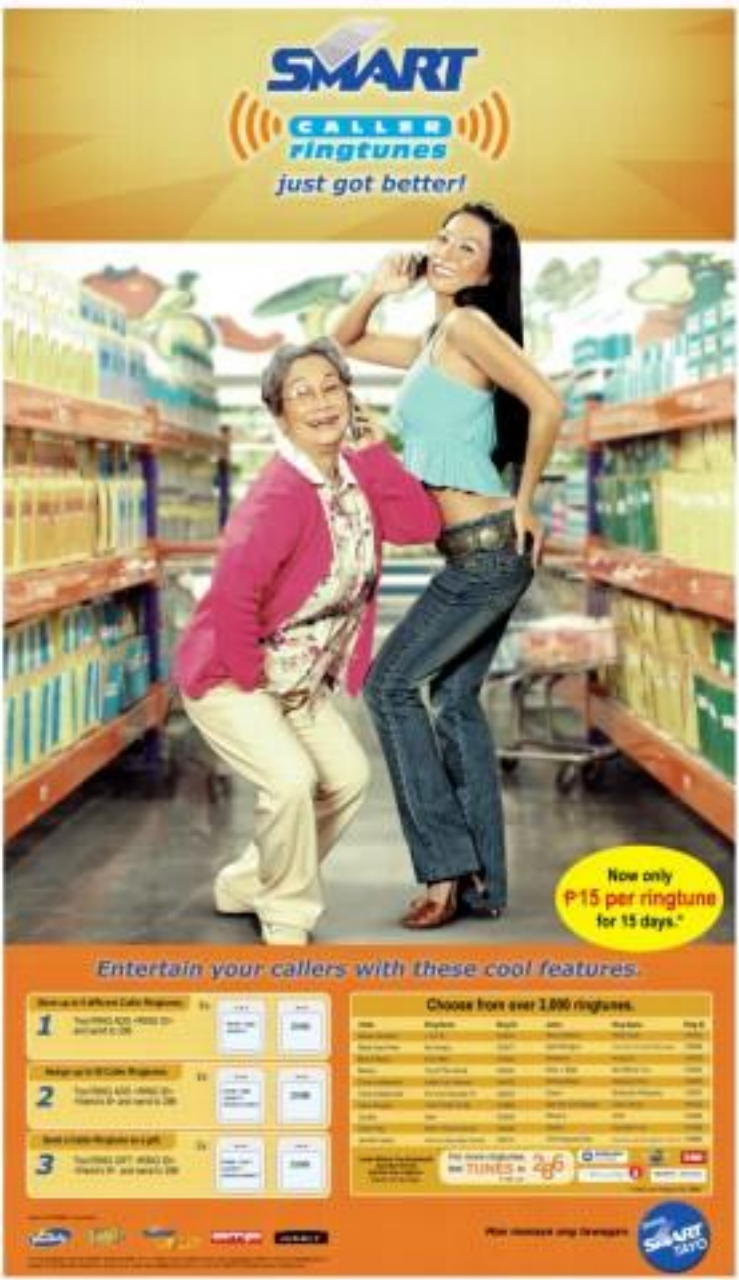
Themes

Gamut is partial to songs about pain and longing. Gamut she says she can relate to. Gets in the album depict different stages in Julia's life.

"This album is special to me because it represents different facets of my personality, in a lot of ways, it shows who I am. I grew up on pop songs and ballads, but I can also appreciate rock and alternative music," the singer-songwriter explains.

Julia confesses that "vintage" songs have a special place in her heart, that's why she was very pleased to be able to rerecord Telly Santos's 30-year-old classic, "Sino sa Buhangin"—this time with a guitar-driven arrangement.

The six covers in the album, which was recently launched on "Eat Bulaga," include Bryan Adams' "When You Love Someone" and The 5th Dimension's "Put Down in My Life."



Heart and fire in Carrie Underwood's debut album

By Hadani Tevs

IT'S COOL TO BE CARRIE UNDERwood at the moment. In the year since her "American Idol" triumph, the young country singer has released a triple-platinum album that became the year's best-selling record by a female country artist. She also won two academy of Country Music Awards.

"If" judge Simon Cowell once predicted that she would outsell any other "Idol" winner, and though that hasn't happened yet, it looks like it's only a matter of time before Carrie proves him right.

UNDERWOOD: Her sincerity shines through.

Success

A large measure of Carrie's post-"If" success can be attributed to her having participated in—and winning—the wildly popular show Millions of Americans who invested in the record have certainly patronized it because they found something to like in it.

In fact, there's nothing objectionable in "Some Hearts," which is composed of a well-produced collection of songs that are as likable and charming as their cute blond singer.

All this previous hit ammunition, not to mention of heavyweight producers, songwriters, and topnotch support big musicians. What is unexpected is that, beneath "Some Hearts" slick and glossy surfaces, there actually is a heart.

We are used to manufactured music nowadays, so even a glimpse of sincerity becomes something worth celebrating. In Underwood's debut, there's a great deal being emotionally moved...from Carrie herself is the genuine article, and her sincerity shines through.

Pitch-perfect

Singing with conviction in that big, pitch-perfect voice, she makes her presence felt in every one of the 14 country-pop songs. Even though there's much blandness in the material, you won't mind.

The album starts off with one of the stronger numbers, "Wasted," a travel poem couched song about changing one's life.

This is closely followed by the catchy, Shania Wayne-penned title track, "Some Hearts," one of the more pop-flute-country songs in the collection that results.

Carrie sounds better singing country, as evinced by "Jesus, Take the Wheel." The song is admittedly cuppa, but she handles it with emotion, projecting heartfelt country-style spirituality.

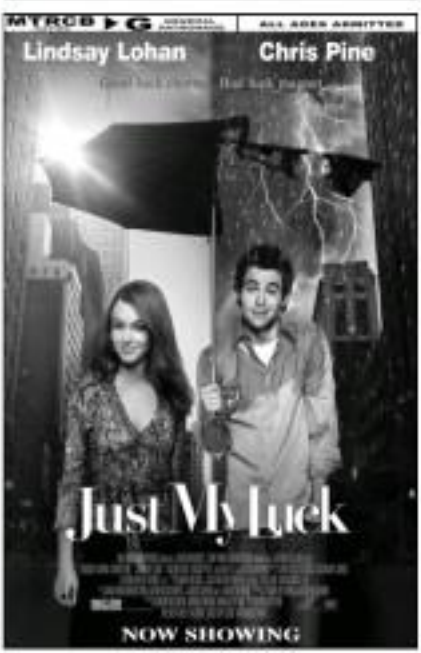
Standout track

Another standout track is "Before He Cheats," where Carrie's voice rose to the occasion.

She doesn't have enough anger yet to truly belt out a song, but she gives it all she's got, and the result is quite enjoyable.

Also outstanding is her one and only self-penned number, "I Ain't in Checotah Anymore," which touches on the recent changes in her life.

"Some Hearts" is a surprisingly satisfying, listen that primes us to expect more of Carrie Underwood in the future.



Severino's

From page A1-4

is featured National Artist for Dance Ramon Obusen as in "Abendalen" Philippine tableau—including visuals due to...technical problems that were supposed to symbolize everything from fertility to Earth.

Footage of the segment showed cooperative guesture holding hands to give them life, cardboard "penises."

It was deemed too vulgar for the sensibilities of some members of the MTRCB. The review and classification body then slapped "I-Witness" with a two-week suspension. (later reduced to one week).

Abesde explains that his criteria for choosing subject matters are: importance, human interest, visual and dramatic potential, and impact.

Controversial

Did he regret doing the controversial piece? He explains: "There was always that risk [of] being considered by the MTRCB. We weighed that. But, it was worth it. The humanitarian issue came out of the horror was the public discussion that ensued—about culture, TV content, censorship, and other relevant issues."

Curiously while the feast with the MTRCB was ongoing, the Rotary Club of Manila named Severino its Occupation Journalist for 2006...his third award from the group.

Abesde hopes to see "more arena and public affairs shows on primetime." The television medium, he says, should be used more as a means to address problems than to escape from them.

FULLER LIFE

Sara Lee Direct Selling brought life's luxuries!

Marife Orosco of Manila's Ermita and Miriam Hanan of Las Piñas branch graduated under lower-paid, but Marife, then involved in the jewelry business and affiliated with another direct selling company. It was a financially rewarding career. But Miriam, a former's daughter and mother of 13, a was a comfortable life for her family.

Marife Orosco (left) and Miriam Hanan have good reason to sugar when they joined Sara Lee Direct Selling.

Eventually these two ladies found the path to reach their goals. Marife heard about Sara Lee Direct Selling and tried her luck at its Ulcos Boulevard branch while Miriam was invited to join the company. "I knew that Sara Lee was for me," Marife says. "We can earn as much as P50,000 a month as the incentive programs are definitely superior!" Miriam adds. "They have a lot of top quality products which are practical and saleable."

Now their lives have changed vastly. They have bought houses, invested on real estates, cars and jewelry. Both have traveled within and outside the country and can send their children to good schools. Not only that, Marife is now the recipient of various awards from Sara Lee including the year's top independent business managers (IBMs) award. This aside holds true for Miriam. From eating rice and sayogo, she now lips out the most delicious food on the table. And those sparkling diamond pins and sayogolas she is now one of Sara Lee's top IBMs.

"I can now provide my family with a brighter future," says Miriam. "And I have finally found the right company to reach for," says Marife who now owns four Sara Lee service centers located in Pateros-pero, Bacoor, Sta. Maria and Balagtas.

As last, Marife and Miriam have found the path to their goals with Sara Lee Direct Selling. Through hard work and determination, these ladies now enjoy successful and financially rewarding direct selling careers while their families enjoy fuller, happier lives.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

MOVIES | SCHEDULES | PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 LADY IN THE WATER + THE
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 NACHO LIBRE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP
7 WILD ORCHID 2
8 WHITE LADY
9 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION
10 SUPERMAN RETURNS

ERMITA

1 SUKOB
2 NACHO LIBRE
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
4 WHITE LADY
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 LADY IN THE WATER
7 JUST MY LUCK

METRO EAST

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 NACHO LIBRE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 JUST MY LUCK
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
8 WHITE LADY

NOVALICHES

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 LADY IN THE WATER

CITISQUARE MALABON / PIONEER

1 SUKOB
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 JUST MY LUCK
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

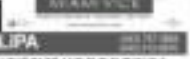
Answer the "Miami Vice" trivia questions in our display materials. Visit 2nd floor lobby of the Robinsons Movieworld branch on or before August 10. Winners will get any of the following:

Limited Photo Autographed Movie Memorabilia
DVD packs from Sony Corp.
Mechanical pencil
Ballpen
Keychain
Cap
Tumbler
Tote bag
Magnet

Must be signed by the artist in the presence of the Robinsons Movieworld representative.

Drive by Robinsons Malls and get a limited "Miami Vice" sticker and other exciting giveaways.

Valid for Saturday, 5:00 to 10PM
Sunday, 12:00 to 10PM
Weekdays, 5:00 to 10PM
(Robinsons Metro East Vicinity)



STA. ROSA / LIPA

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2 WHITE LADY
3 THE INSIDE MAN
4 SUKOB
1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUKOB
3 WHITE LADY
4 SEE NO EVIL

DASMARINAS / ANGELES

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 WILD ORCHID 2
3 SUKOB
4 THE NUN
1 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 SFL
3 WHITE LADY
4 SUKOB

IMUS / STARMILLS

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2 WILD ORCHID 2
3 SUKOB
4 JUST MY LUCK
1 WILD ORCHID 2
2 SUKOB
3 WHITE LADY
4 LOVE WRECKED
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2

BACOLOD / ILOILO

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
3 SUKOB
4 LOVE WRECKED
5 I WANNA BE HAPPY
6 NACHO LIBRE
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2 SUKOB
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 NACHO LIBRE

"Gusto ko all-out kulitxtan sa halagang P25 lang!"

Oo naman! Posible 'yan sa

Globe Super Sulit Offers FOR POSTPAID & PREPAID

UNLIMITXT 25

Good for 2 days!

Text UNLIMITXT25 to 2870

- Globe-to-Globe
- Hindi kailangan ng special load
- Permanent offer na 'to!

RATE	KEYWORD
P 15 (1 day)	Text UNLIMITXT15 to 2870
P 25 (2 days)	Text UNLIMITXT25 to 2870
P 50 (5 days)	Text UNLIMITXT50 to 2870

Get FREE Unlimitxt for 5 days with your new Globe Prepaid SIM!

Bumili lang ng Globe Prepaid SIM at mag-load ng at least P25. Maintain at least P1 load to enjoy this Unlimitxt offer.

Promo until August 1, 2006. For details see ad.

Mas sulit talaga kapag in-Globe. Kaya lpxt na!

basta ikaw! ang laksa mo sa Globe

Nostalgia triumphs on 'Shall We Dance?'

By Nestor U. Torre

THE ILLUMINATI SECRETIVE SECTION of ABC-5's "Shall We Dance?" celebrity competition is particularly interesting because it pits former TV partners, Gerald Madrid and Roderick Paulate, against each other. Along with Aiza Seguerra and Joe Magno.

Viewers expect that Gerald and Roderick will eventually oppose off against each other as the months progress (Fantastic). Indeed, last Sunday's telecast between Gerald's reputations, because the 60's, never gushed over Gerald and Roderick in an unconventional.

MARTIN AND PAULATE. From partners to competitors.

Popular TV show

Yes, despite the fact that Roderick was a popular and heartier on his first time he used to be when he and Gerald shared together on their popular TV show in the '80s.

But, he did almost up a storm and looked like he was having the time of his life, as it was no surprise that the judges and studio audience dared on him, not only to the routine that they gave Gerald.

That's why we weren't surprised that Aiza, despite her sexy stature, was the first to be eliminated from the competition.

As for me, he bowed his number with all of the zest and intensity that he could summon up, and then encircled he-he, despite Aiza's admirable gyrations' round others.

We need also cite his partner, Nadia, for being such a good listener and very nice to her. In fact, it could be that she helped his pull his score up, enough to outdo Aiza's sexy challenge.

Also, she's another one that Sunday will be between Jay Gamil and Roderick, with Jay already having to face the hardest to fight off his two crude moving "nostalgia" factor.

Clear favorite

Since Gamil is the clear favorite, even Roderick will have to come up with an extra-special number to keep up with Jay. We don't doubt that he'll be up to it, especially if he takes the jurors' comments on his performance last week to heart.

Since Gamil is the more variety and risk-taking on his part, and Roderick has what it takes to deliver just that, this next time around.

What about Lizzie? With her two male competitors doing their damndest to outdo her "dancing queen" advantage, she was unable to come up with something special for the competition's second week. She was out with a thunderous applause after the numbers, and there were cheers and even screaming on the floor!

Then, there was a standing ovation. It was wild! The applause went on for so long that she was forced to sing the song again—and again! I had never seen anything like it—such audience power and participation!

Reaction

What she sang "Silly" she also proclaimed wanted, and had to sing the song once more. I wondered what other jurors felt after such a loving reception! The artiste went wild over Tonette, and stood on each publicly evoked in the musical's finale. But, did it feel lucky that Hindi caught that magical performance?

But, sadly, "Tonette's" outstanding musical talent was not recognized by movie producers.

She also starred in "Juan," a musical on the tragic tale of the woman who claimed she was the Heavenly princess, Anastasia—the last surviving Romanov child.

While the musical did not succeed at the box office, critics nevertheless praised Tonette for another memorable performance.

These days, everytime a new singer covers "My Man" and "Hit," I remember Cristina Gonzalez' rendition of Brecht's *Alabama Song* in the triumphant Broadway performance I will never forget.

A Broadway performance to remember

By Bobi Cervantes

CONFIDENCE TONETTE IS ONE person you'd probably include in a "Whatever happened to?" list. The tall, blonde actress appeared in a few movies, married Rudy Madrid (remember, Aiza Garcia in former Antibes, and/or to Mexico), but in no time disappeared from the face of the entertainment world.

However, she remains etched in my mind/memories because I was privileged to see her exceptional portrayal in a stage version of Ayn Rand's "Atlas Shrugged" at the Lincoln Center. She delivered a performance unlike any other!

TONETTE. Had to sing "My Man" three times in one show.

Revival

Most Pinoy theatre lovers were reminded about this revival, because she once had Rudy's songs, which remain popular to this day. His classics include "Oh Man River," "Make Believe" and "They Wouldn't Believe Me," as well as "My Man" and "Hit."

The last two were the songs associated with late singer/diva Ms. Helen Morgan. They have become well-loved standards popularly covered by the likes of Lena Horne and many other torch singers who wanted to "sing the blues."

I became familiar with the song, "Hit," because Dee Morgan's, loved TV's Bernard Clay, album sang it when she and I were classmates at UP. I thoroughly enjoyed "Show Boat's" Blue version, starring Howard Hall, Kathryn Grayson and Ava Gardner. Tonette portrayed the role of Gardner, onstage, so I was doubly interested to see her interpretation of the mulatto character.

Controversial

The Jerry Herman-Harry Kandel-Edna Ferber's novel was controversial when it was first staged in the '20s, with Helen Morgan scintillating.

In those days, tackling the topic of interracial marriage—and in a musical, at that—was unheard of. So, the production was met with great hesitancy and critical praise. "Ole Man River" was its most famous song.

I didn't realize that "Hit" and "My Man" were on deeply loved by the American audience—until after Tonette movingly and beautifully sang the second song. She was met with a thunderous applause after the number, and there were cheers and even screaming on the floor!

Then, there was a standing ovation. It was wild! The applause went on for so long that she was forced to sing the song again—and again! I had never seen anything like it—such audience power and participation!

Reaction

What she sang "Silly," she also proclaimed wanted, and had to sing the song once more. I wondered what other jurors felt after such a loving reception! The artiste went wild over Tonette, and stood on each publicly evoked in the musical's finale. But, did it feel lucky that Hindi caught that magical performance?

But, sadly, "Tonette's" outstanding musical talent was not recognized by movie producers.

She also starred in "Juan," a musical on the tragic tale of the woman who claimed she was the Heavenly princess, Anastasia—the last surviving Romanov child.

While the musical did not succeed at the box office, critics nevertheless praised Tonette for another memorable performance.

These days, everytime a new singer covers "My Man" and "Hit," I remember Cristina Gonzalez' rendition of Brecht's *Alabama Song* in the triumphant Broadway performance I will never forget.

Pride

LOTUS POND

K. Valenzuela and S. Hernandez

IN THE VEDAS, THERE'S A BOOK that tell story about truths, and how he was severely chastised by the Supreme Being. Indra was a very proud man...like a lot of people in this world—who get upset when religious vanguard makeup outshines his. So he sent down the villagers, in turn down a devastating landslide to smother the place. But, the villagers prayed to the Supreme Person for help, so they were protected from ruin and strong winds.

Prayer

Here are Indra's prayer and the Supreme Person's response:

Indra said, "My dear Lord, You are the supreme spiritual master and propagator of everything. You destroy offenders without punishing them for their offenses.

"In this material world, there are many fools like me who consider themselves the most important creatures in the universe. With Your mercy You destroy our false conception of life, and You are the Supreme Lord, the controller of all living entities. You are the friend of all living entities, and You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vasudeva, Lord Krishna. I offer my respectful obeisances unto You."

Then the Supreme Person replied: "My dear Indra, I have awaked the sacrifice to show mercy, and to remind you that I am your eternal master.

"Material opulence also comes from Me. I am therefore in general Controller. Because you are not in proper to Me, to show mercy to restrain unregulated by pride, I withdrew the opulence for service."

The lesson is simple. The Supreme Person is merciful. When children become too proud of their powers, ability, affluence or beauty, the Supreme being helps them realize the error of their ways.

Learn to pray, as Indra did, by humbly asking for forgiveness for our arrogance!

"I committed a great offense into your lotus feet. We have unknowingly sinned by destroying my false pride. Please bless me so that I may not act foolishly again."

Favors

The Supreme Person replied: "My dear Indra, I have availed the sacrifice to show mercy, and to remind you that I am your eternal master.

"Material opulence also comes from Me. I am therefore in general Controller. Because you are not in proper to Me, to show mercy to restrain unregulated by pride, I withdrew the opulence for service."

The lesson is simple. The Supreme Person is merciful. When children become too proud of their powers, ability, affluence or beauty, the Supreme being helps them realize the error of their ways.

Learn to pray, as Indra did, by humbly asking for forgiveness for our arrogance!

Severino's docus spur controversy, debate

By Ramon E. Bayron

SIMA 75 HOWIE SEVERINO IS AN unassuming yet effective broadcast journalist. He doesn't have the comical vocal ties that characterize many of his colleagues' presentations, nor does he give the usual screaming look-at-me-Ma-look-at-me acting public bent.

Howie merely shows viewers what he comes seen. In a post telecast, he took us to work and captured the horror the Tsunami tragedy brought. He shows "My advocacy is to give hope

SEVERINO'S DOCS

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor G. Torre
Assistant Editor Rina P. Jimlo

Cinemalaya 2006 surpasses last year's film fest

By Nestor U. Torre

WE MADE IT A POINT TO watch all of the eight 2006 Cinemalaya feature-length films, the better to measure the key questions: Was it a good festival—and was it as successful as even better than its first edition last year, which had set a high standard in terms of quality?

The answer to the first question is a hearty yes, with some six of the eight entries coming off as significant and well-made productions.

As a result, we can say that the 2006 filmfest is as good as or even better than last year's—which is saying a lot, since the 2005 festival remained unsurpassed, and came up with such worthy films as "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," "Impos Amnisia," and "Big Time."

Most exceptional

This year, the most exceptional productions are "Hubad ng Ilan," "Tanod, Sa Puting Paliay," "Rearview" and "Donsol." If you didn't catch them in the CCP you have another chance to view these when they move to the UP Film Center from Aug. 7 to 10.

The 2006 Cinemalaya festival boasted local filmmaking because it enabled viewers to experience situations, characters and themes generally ignored by the mainstream commercial movie cinema.

For a long time now, we've been plugging for the production of a Filipino movie about a band, since bands are very popular here. So, we were gratified when "Tuhod ng Tatu," a psychological chiller-drama about The Losers, was shown.

Debut director Quark Henares impressed us to youths in the Mindanao Province ("Hubad"), whale sharks and a cancer victim ("Donsol"), dentistry continually living at the edge of risk and excitement ("Boracaldo"), and other subjects that don't usually get to meet on the big screen.

We also appreciate Cinemalaya 2006 for showcasing new directors like Gun Reyana ("Gumanda"), Mike Sandejas ("Hubad ng Ilan"), Benji Garcia ("Hunad") and Adolfo Alix Jr. ("Donsol")—gifted and committed filmmakers, one and all.

When we watched the Cinemalaya films, we concluded that those did best of all—and we're glad to see that he won the Best Actor's Directing award.

We trust that mainstream producers were impressed with the new directors' polished turn-offers, and will tap them to direct other movies in season to come.

Outstanding

We're happy, too, that this year's Cinemalaya festival entries came up with many outstanding lead performances—Richi Calaro in "Hubad," Black Gil, Meryl Soriano and Celso Ad Castillo in "Pororoca," Gil Lucero and Angel Aquino in "Donsol," Nin Lucero in "Milagros," etc.

It's great that alternative movies are "discovering" new members like Urduja and Lauren, and "rediscovering" under-utilized veteran talents like Gil and Lucio. We trust that their performances will motivate mainstream producers to use them in their own productions.

Standouts

Even among the supporting actors and "unknown" talents, there were some standouts—the vibrantly pretty girl Galatea has a crush on in "Hubad," the obsessive girl in the laundry in "Ang Huling Araw ng Linggo" (Angel Esquivel), etc.

We also noted that, on points of technique and technology, this year's entries are generally better than the 2005 Cinemalaya films. This is heartening, because alternative movies need to look more "professional" if they want to attract and sustain the attention of mainstream moviegoers.

This is the ultimate objective of the festival: To showcase new talents and innovative themes and techniques, so that they can eventually redound to the good of the larger local film audience.

Cinemalaya 2006 was a hit, for the thousands of people who enjoyed its offerings are only a small percentage of the hundreds of thousands who patronize mainstream movies. It is this mainstream audience that should ultimately benefit from the gains notched by Cinemalaya.

After another successful edition of the pioneering festival and competition, the challenge now is to figure out precisely how to better achieve that most important goal.

NOW SHOWING

Sins of omission and commission

By Rito P. Asilo

"Sukob"
D: Chito Roño
S: Ricky Lo, Chanda Romero

IN HIS LATEST HORROR opus, Chito Roño delivers a rambling, cleverly realized reprimand about the intertwining lives of two twins, Sandy and Diana (Kris Aquino and Claudine Barretto, respectively), who must get to the bottom of things to stop the violent deaths and unexplained disappearances of their loved ones.

BARRETTO, Effectively understated portrayal.

Brian (Bernard Palanca) and a pregnant Diana decide to get married to avoid scandal. Or, on the day they exchange wedding vows, however, a church servant is found dead inside the bell tower.

Things take a turn for the worse when horrific events occur one after the other—with people close to the couple dying tragic deaths, their remains inexplicably vanishing thereafter.

Elsewhere, and just days apart, lonely and lady Dimakuli Ramirez—after living-in together for two years—also take the marital plunge.

With their skittish re-tended families, the couple observes every imaginable seeming-then-lived rupture. Soon after marriage is made bad luck. Sue Ramirez, experiences a chain of misfortune that turns their

ENCORE 31>>

PAROKYA NI EDGAR. Respect each other's space—and music.

Parokya ni Edgar still rules the music scene

By Jocelyn Valle

"THERE PAUL," SAYS JAMES DEAN in an interview with Newsweek, "in the waiting thing that can happen as a performer." Stand-up comic become famous, they get to eat a little more, they have more to puff up, and they talk about things that their audience can't relate to.

Parokya ni Edgar, which is known for insanely funny songs and crazy antics in music videos and onstage, has no problem with having a "base line." From the first time we saw the guys perform at the launch of their debut CD 10 years ago, till last month when we caught one of their gigs at Yeh Raya's, they have remained thoroughly entertaining and unaffected by success.

Unchanging sound

"I think to adapt, doing good or having gumaw ang tatlo nanin," remarks vocalist Chito Miranda about the band's unchanging sound. "Kapoy rin, siyempre, kasi, nandiyan na kami, OK lang siguro sa audience nanin ang ganyan."

Our dating's bet ones, Chito and his bandmates, Dustin Sematia (lead guitar), Gabriel Claudio (guitar), Rafael Mesarez (bass), Buboy Chu Bilarmo (drums) and Vince Montenero (backup vocals) are still having fun. (Vince's only joins the group in recording, because he wants to concentrate on his studies so he can eventually run his family's business.)

"Kumbaga sa damit na nagsusuot nine ninu ngayon," Chito points out. At hanggang ngayon, nasisiyahi pa rin sila na nakikinig ang mga audience ko. 'Pag nakaing nagsing, dedo na sinasabi nanin. 'Di, pero gusto nanin siyan. Kaya nanin ay eto ang patuloy nagkaroon, because we grew up together. Sasama-sama kaming nagkaroon."

But, they also respect each other's space—and moods. If one of them doesn't feel like going to rehearsal (which they schedule only when they're working on new materials), the rest of the band leaves him alone. If another member doesn't want to play in a gig, he just has to look for somebody to pitch in for him.

They're free to pursue other passions. Glen Sosa's involvement in the Mayhem Adventure team). This way they avoid getting burned out.

"Kapag nararamdaman nagsing kasi, nahahapagod," Buboy avers. "Minsan, parang gusto nang magbakasyon. If you take a break, for instance, three months, six months."

"Before anyone else, we first phone ourselves," Gab adds. "Sinisi nanin pinagkaisa ang mga project nanin, like 'Mr. Suave.' Hindi namin alam kung magagawan nanin ng mga iyan, kasi nung una nanong pinag-iisipan 'yan, tawa lang kami ng tawa."

No problem

Getting married and having kids pose no problem for the band, whose the guys, who must be in their early 30s. In fact, family men like Dix and Buboy feel more motivated now to do better in their craft. For Dix Dix, having to work at night means spending the whole day with his daughter.

Buboy, on the other hand, is awed at how his son enjoys tagging along during gigs, though he admits that he'd like his kid to focus more on his studies and sports than music when he grows up.

Wacky lyrics

Though the band is known for songs with wacky lyrics (which have brought them eight media platinum albums to date, including their latest collection, "Halina sa Parokya"), the 10s isn't worried that his little girl might not take him seriously. There's no pressure to suddenly acquire a mature outlook.

He reasons: "Pag nagsing anyone ang Parokya ni Edgar, may nanonood po 'ko sa entry."

A misstep for Jack Black

by Nestor Torre

THERE ARE A LOT OF talented people in "Nacho Libre." There's Jack Black, one of the funniest actors in Hollywood; Héctor Jaimes, and Mike White, writer of "The School of Rock" and "Chuck & Buck."

"Nacho Libre" has an interesting setting and a wonderfully weird score by Danny Elfman that juxtaposes Rock with other comedic Mexican folk songs.

Vibrant

It features the vibrant, wacky world of Nacho Libre—a form of freestyle wrestling that's popular in South America—as main character from.

You would think, in fact, that "Nacho Libre" had everything going for it. But, believe it or not, all of the above-mentioned don't add up to the gut-bustingly hilarious comedy we are led to expect.

Let's start with the story. "Nacho Libre" tells the tale of Ignacio, a social misfit made for an orphanage. He has seven desires. To become the party State Encomendero (Nacho Regueiro) to obtain her vows, and to become a luchador (a wrestler) to earn enough to feed the orphans.

Unfortunately, the tale meanders here and there, setting up scenes that don't lead anywhere. This unnecessary turn hurts objectionable if the said scenes were funny, but most of them are not.

The world of Lucha Libre is preserved in all its kitschy but unabridged serious glory. Yet, the luchador scenes—Rollerball battle and costumes, but Hiro doesn't make the most of the milieu, so the fight scenes lack excitement and immediacy.

Jack Black, for once, is not screamingly funny. He, he's still enjoyable to watch (even when he's overdoing the physical acting), but he rarely gets you to laugh out loud.

Sympathetic

His Nacho is a sympathetic character, but with an overemphasized nicotine. Black is more effective when his character is loaded.

Without Black's presence, however, the movie falls apart. His Spanish accent is one of the few genuinely funny things in the production.

Toni, Lovi pull off pleasant surprises in first albums

By Rito P. Asido

WHO DOES THAT THE LOCAL recording industry is in the doldrums? Obviously we've had to listen to a good number of new local recordings to sift through an impressive array of fresh talents.

Indeed, sales may be down due to the public's unassuming patronage of pirated albums, but the rising artists' spirit of singers, songwriters and musicians realizing their quixotic quest to emotionally showcase their art.

Said footage is one of the welcome additions to the extended local recording scene. She has found celebrity with her TV hosting skills, but her singing ability is no less impressive she has several such mini-albums. "True Complete Me," released in high gear, was soon followed by Toni Gonzaga's chants also translated well in her songs. On the first, she reportedly went her first singing ride.

Stable voice

Gonzaga may not have the arrogance of pipes, or her self-penned "Hang Kung Ka," would prove. And this becomes more apparent when she's asked to sing something more like "You are the One." A duet with "Pinoy Big Brother's" Jean Mills reportedly wobbles. In the TV special about the Caroline Barrera-Raymundo marriage-to-be, Toni has a stable voice that's further boosted by her ability to control it.

But, at least, Toni seems to be aware of her limitations. The collection recently includes her rendering of the Kenny Loggins' "Footloose" and "Celebrate" (from Miley's reportedly wobbly). In the TV special about the Caroline Barrera-Raymundo marriage-to-be, Toni has a stable voice that's further boosted by her ability to control it.

But, at least, Toni seems to be aware of her limitations. The collection recently includes her rendering of the Kenny Loggins' "Footloose" and "Celebrate" (from Miley's reportedly wobbly). In the TV special about the Caroline Barrera-Raymundo marriage-to-be, Toni has a stable voice that's further boosted by her ability to control it.

Covers

In covers like "Be Careful" (Cardigans' "Lovefool" and—despite silly lyrics—an overwhelming hum—Peter Pritchard and Hal David's "Alfie" and Toni's, she exudes confidence and a sprightly playfulness that made listeners to sing along with her.

Aside from "Pa Rin Ako," the track that comes off best is an OPM cover of Dianne Cruz's hit, "Kapag Tumibok ang Puso," which was recently used as the theme song in the thing Stella-A-Golden Age remotely flick of the same title. (Thankyou there the source website to the celebrity edition of "PBB" wasn't included in the album.)

Current hit

Like Toni, Lovi Poe, daughter of Melody King, Fernando Poe Jr., has a soothing, sweet voice similar to BC Concepcion's or Jasmine Curtis's.

Her current hit, "I Never Know Love," is an Butterfly U-Unlock/CD, "The Best of Ella Mae," will remind you of Barrett's "I Know" or Concepcion's plaintive rendition of "Starlight," BC's duet with her mom, Sharon Cuneta.

Lovi makes her claim to recording stardom—and not, surprisingly, in the movies—with the release of her well-produced debut. Saccharine

GONZAGA AND POE. Soothing and radio-friendly.

sweet, more perfect and smooth, Poe's daughter's voice is best showcased in the ballads. "I Never Know Love," "Alone," and in her cover of Aiwana's "Grooming of You."

But, we like thoroughly enjoyed listening to upbeat tracks like "Hey," "Every Little Step" and the album's earlier single, "I Lost You," a cover of No. 1 radio hit.

We wonder, though, why "Without You," Lovi's collaboration with Sarah Jones's Clive and Bob Weekly (formerly of the '70s icon singing sensations, The Mailmen), isn't included in the selection. You'll find the cuts in Sarah Jones's CD, "The Meaning of Happy."

Deception, betrayal in 'Fierce People'

ARE VICIOUS SECRETS LURKING in suburban jungles? The Donald Sutherland-Diane Lane starrer, "Fierce People," examines the deceit and betrayal that erupt when a wealthy-class mother and her son move to a wealthy "country club" suburb, where social climbing is a blood sport.

The movie's plot starts to unfold when the mother, Liz (Lane), moves with her 16-year-old son, Finn (Anton Yelchin), into a penthouse on the mid country estate of an aging billionaire, Dr. Jim (Sutherland).

Finn falls for Dobson's beautiful granddaughter, Hay (Kristin Scott), and sees the old man's favorite flat, a shocking act of violence drives Finn's newcomer mother to Dobson flat, and the golden promise of his beautiful new world quickly sours. "Fierce People" is directed by Griffin Dunne and starts its run on Aug. 9.

Montage

Drew at bartending tilt

Last July 27, Drew Barrymore hosted Wil Friday's Gimme 4's 11th annual "Shake, Rattle and Bowl" Bartending Championships. The annual competition focuses on fancy showmanship, the traditional aspects of bartending, tough cookies on many items, and no-nos reveals.

Ronald "Wonder Boy" Wonderman, 33, Friday's Philippines' pride, won the Asian Bartending Championship and placed second in the World Bartending Championship in Dallas, Texas in 1999. The 2006 competition was held in cooperation with Pepsi and Jam 88.3, together with Jack Daniels and Big Scoop Ice Cream.

'Click' sneak previews

The "life-altering" comedy "Click," starring Adam Sandler and Kate Beckinsale, will have sneak previews on July 31 and Aug. 1 in selected theaters. A hit in the States, the film is about an architect who purchases a remote control that empowers him to control not only his TV set and stereo, but virtually his entire life!

ARELLANO (Nov): "Shake, Rattle and Pour."

'Hustle' on Hallmark Channel

Beginning on the Hallmark Channel starting at 9 p.m. on Aug. 7, "Hustle" is a soap-opera series that dramatizes the exploits of a gang of five "criminals with a conscience" let loose on the streets of London. They're all specialists in the ways of grafters, and are here to liberate cash from the unwind and unknowing.

Lead stars include Adrian Lester (as gang leader Mickey Bricks), Matt Whitton, Robert Vaughn, Robert Glenister and Jaime Murray. The first episode serves to set a benchmark, and the con is the classic sucks and shows scam.

Easy English seminars

Every Saturday and Sunday starting Aug. 5, 6, 19 and 20, from 2 to 5 p.m., Cubao Entertainment Inc. (SkyLight), 8917 609, 777-00 is holding a new series of Easy English seminars. The seminar

of 5.0 Oh. Rigoletto soap opera series.

probationer package of conversation, grammar, listening and writing tutorial 30 hours, and is for students, housewives and professionals alike. Cubao also does tutorial, Quiz reviews and corporate seminars.

Sharon performs tonight

Sharon Cuneta performs at 8 tonight at Clark Expo in Angeles, Pampanga. The concert's directed by the Megastar at her last-minute best, as she performs cuts from her latest album, "Isn't It Romantic?" Call 911-0555 or (045) 887-4998.

Cinemalaya happenings

"Sana Magsaya ang Pasyente," the suppressor of the 2006 Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, will have a repeat screening at 2 p.m. on Aug. 30 at UP's Cine Adarna. Call (632) 433 0007. The film exploits Andy Bais, Ricky Davao, Maneth Ferreras, Mica Tiara, Bai Gomez and Cardad Sanchez.

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 29 at 9:45 p.m., "Wag Ito Ing," 9 p.m., "Alfie" July 30 at 8:30 a.m., "Harlem Nights," 10 p.m., "Jerry Maguire." 2 a.m., "Hitch." July 31 at 2:15 p.m., "Runaway," 12:30 a.m., "Elf."

On Cinemax, July 29 at 11:35 a.m., "Gothika," 12:35 p.m., "Rhys Ifans." July 30 at 10:50 p.m., "Beethoven." July 31 at 6 a.m., "Operade," 3:10 p.m., "The Hero Within." 9 p.m., "The Last Samurai."

Lifetime of service

"[NAMUTED ANG BUHI MAG-pakapon ako nga magsakripyo sa komunidad." I will continue to serve others as long as I [live]. Those words define the heroism of Estrella Calvo.

Lola Tika, as she is fondly called, has tirelessly served the people of Calbiong, Western Samar for four decades. She is considered an institution in the field of alternative healing.

Herbal medicine

Her work started in the '70s when she was trained as a "hilot." Through the years, she has become a member of vast

CARES. Marvin Abadia.

STREET SMART

Melody Navarro

rural health institutions specializing in herbal medicine and reflexology.

At present, Lola Tika works as a regular volunteer for the Commission on Health Care in Calbiong. Rain or shine, she consistently monitors the health of people from far-to-her-nipa in remote areas of the province.

Link

Not only is Lola Tika able to give medical care through alternative medicine, but she also serves as a link between her people's needs and the medical attention that their community's leaders can provide.

Helping others is a life-long commitment to God that for this octogenarian is not limited to her lifetime, because she continuously serves as an inspiration to others who unseen who think highly of her heroic deeds.

E-mail mail@starsandbars.com.ph, or call 891-1757.

Sins of omission and commission

From page A1-1

world upside down.

A village shaman and a relative with a resentment that for the second half the unlucky ladies are dancing class. The Hello-Kitty Price superstition—which seduced, called or jump—may be the culprit behind their fiasco marriages.

Soon, Diana and family uncover a dark family secret that brings the two seemingly unrelated women together. They then realize that things—and people—aren't as "cockeyed" as they seem. Someone they've affiliated to has to atone for his sins of commission, while others in their midst have to face unpreparedness for their sins of omission. Is it too late for family and Diana to make wrong things right?

Restless scenes and more unnerving than 2004's "Feng Shui," Reyes' scenes are unsettling yet that is inherently Pinoy in tone and sensibility.

A number of familiar faces in the reunion story flick notice but at commercial compromise, but the director manages to tell a gripping story about convergence and deception—that fillmes with psychological tension and, yes, welcome deep thrills.

The production is further aided by the fine performances of Reyes-Arbas's effortlessly understated, Soraida Salcedo and Boots Anson-Roa (as Sarah's arrogant father and emotionally absent mother, respectively) and Kris' unapologetically collected friendly presence.

Jean's get-to-wrong Aquino does her best to come up with a hand-wringing performance—and she mostly succeeds. But, here's a secret: that flair is compromised by her look of constant dread and a pained facial expression that is, to say the least, too "endearing" to be truly effective.

But, at least, Reyes has finally touched away the awkward posturing that blighted many of her past performances.

Yes, there are trite, uncharitable plotlines, too-cueing histrionics from some actors supporting players, and familiar ghoulish cliches and familiar ghoulish cliches in many horror flicks, but the film works up some scary images of its own that will make your hair stand on end.

Another confounding question left unanswered: Where have all the missing dead bodies gone? These quibbles notwithstanding, the movie manages to rise above the limitations of the genre as it deftly interacts and meshes its plot threads with visual mastery and narrative finesse.

Reyes creates crisp and tightly edited scenes that start with an atmosphere of dread and unease. With top-way production values, he effectively evokes every apartment's accompanying mood.

The director doesn't just compel his viewers on a chilling rollercoaster ride of screams, shrieks and yelps, he also sends them home on a cinematic high.

Presented by: San Miguel Coffee; Save Smart Tayo

Brought to you by: McDonald's; WOW

For more information about Philippine Idol, call PLDT Idol Helpline 1-888-4-IDOL-SE or visit www.philippineidol.com

SM SUPERMALLS; MBC MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY; FHM NETWORKS; DreamFM

BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Connie S. Martinez

Inflation rate seen to ease

Stable food prices, manageable oil hikes cited

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S ANNUAL INFLATION RATE IS EXPECTED TO EASE further in July from the 6.7 percent rate in June due to stable prices of food and moderate hikes in oil prices during the month, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday told reporters that the inflation this month expects consumer prices to increase by an average of between 6.3 and 7 percent.

"But our expectation is that the July inflation rate will probably be lower than the 6.7 percent actual rate in June," Tetangco said during the press briefing.

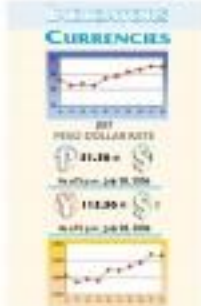
He cited the generally stable price of rice, the country's main staple, as well as the manageable increase in oil prices during the period.

Also, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that, barring external shocks, inflation would likely taper off for the rest of the year.

However, average inflation rate for 2006 would still likely breach the 4-5 percent official targets. But the rate would be lower than the 7.3-7.9 percent range earlier set by the BSP, Guinigundo said.

He added that the recent strengthening of the peso, which rebounded to the 51 level after falling past the 53-to-1 barrier in earlier weeks, would also mitigate the impact of high

INFLATION, B4



INQUIRER MONITOR

More jobs seen with approval of FDIs (First quarter of 2006)

BIR reports drop in H1 excise tax collection

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE'S excise tax collections in the first semester of the year stood at P38.67 billion, lower than the year-ago figure as the month came to emerge some oil products from the tax standard in bogus revenues.

The amount of excise tax collected in the first half was 6 percent lower than the P50.44 billion collected in the same period last year.

The government, through the VAT Reform Law, lifted the excise tax on kerosene, bunker fuel and diesel as a way to ease the impact of the imposition of the value-added tax on oil.

The law also expanded the coverage of the value-added tax to include previously exempted oil and electricity, among others, and raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent. The law contains provisions that are meant to ease the VAT impact on consumer prices.

Excise tax is imposed on petroleum, automobiles and so-called sin products,

BIR, B3

IN THIS ISSUE

- DOF expected to raise TPL coverage amount /B3
- Mindanao exports hit $423M in Q1 /B5

PLDT unit investing ₱360M in new call center in Ortigas

Firm to provide financial, market support services

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A SUBSIDIARY OF PLDT INC., THE CALL center arm of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., is spending P360 million to put up a call center in the Ortigas central business district.

The call center of ePLDT Ventus Inc., which currently has 615 agents, will offer financial and market support services to PLDT, Smart Communications and third party clients.

ePLDT Ventus Inc. applied for incentives with the Board of Investments for its new project, which company officials said also included beef up facilities with 48 seats in Quezon City and another one in Makati with 165 seats.

The company is eyeing third party clients that are based in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

In a related development, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions said 18 local information and technology enabled firms were embarking on a sales mission to get a big purchase of the downtown market in Sweden.

Trade Assistant Secretary Ofelia Agustin-Reyes said the mission would showcase the local firms' outstanding services in customer relations management, procurement, finance and accounting, human resources, data conversion, design and engineering and even animation.

Reyes, who is also Undersecretary, said the mission would cover the cities of Chicago, New York and Miami.

She said the United States, which represents 60 percent of total global BPO spending, remained the country's main market for outsourced business processes and contact center services.

Reyes said the US presented new opportunities in local BPO firms since its total cost to outsource BPO was projected to hit $1 billion in 2006, while US$ worth was even to rise to $32 billion in 2008.

"We want to help small companies in the BPO space who want to [work with] with international partners," she said. "These companies are going to be crucial players in the knowledge-based economy and the US Internet can provide us a [catalyst for partnership]."

In the local call center scene, some observers have grown to $1.1 billion while employment reached 112,000 in about half a decade since the boom began.

TRADERS stun as the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati after the market registered Thursday its best draw since June 6. This, however, was followed by a technical correction the next day with share prices dropping by 0.39 percent. Traders/analysts in the market area just taking a breather before resuming higher resistance levels.

Del Monte Pacific profit down

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SINGAPORE-LISTED PINEAPPLE PRODUCER Del Monte Pacific Ltd., largely owned by the joint venture between the Ongpin group and Jose Miguel Corp., said its net income in the second quarter fell 24 percent to $13.7 million from year ago's $18 million.

Records show that weak sales in Europe and South America ate up sales gains in Asia Pacific, particularly in the Philippines.

For the first six months, net income fell 10.6 percent to $7.2 million from $10.2 million last year. The company expects to post a full-year profit of $38.6 million, or the same as last year's level.

In its disclosure to the Stock Exchange of Singapore, Del Monte said sales in the second quarter were at $94 million, almost the same as year-ago level.

The Asia Pacific market, which includes the Philippines and China, accounted for 66 percent of total sales in the second quarter. Europe and North America accounted for the remaining 34 percent.

The company said sales in tons increased by 2 percent to $76.6 million, with the beverage and processed pineapple segments in the Philippine market accounting for the growth and offsetting disappointing results in the tuna processed segment. Sales in the Philippines grew by 6 percent in the second quarter, it added.

New ventures —Great Lakes China and Del Monte Foods India—contributed $2.2 million in revenue in the quarter. Great Lakes entered new export markets such as Taiwan, Australia and the Indian subcontinent.

Sales to Europe and North America amounted to $16.3 million, 7 percent lower than year ago level.

In a briefing in Singapore, the company said Del Monte Europe was acquired by Fruit Del Monte, and that they were still in a transition stage.

"The drop in sales in Europe was more a function of the change in ownership than market forces. We believe this is a matter of timing," Del Monte added.

The firm's gross profits in the second quarter declined by 2.9 percent to $11.8 million from $10.4 million due to higher costs of raw materials, packaging and energy.

Del Monte Pacific is 83 percent owned by NutriAsia Pacific Ltd., a joint venture between the Nautilaia Group of Companies and Jose Miguel Corp.

Lepanto sees return to profit

GOLD PRODUCER LEPANTO CONSOLIDATED Mining Co. expects to post a turnaround this year, with a projected profit of P1.94 billion from a net loss of P989.3 million in 2005.

In a prospectus filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the company said it was expecting higher sales of metals to boost its financial performance this year.

The company's gold production performance last year was hurt by a three-month labor strike.

The company prospectus showed plans to raise P650 million through a "4-for-9" stock rights offering.

Lepanto said production this year was projected to reach 65,000 ounces of gold, 833,300 ounces of silver and 577,200 pounds of copper.

Lepanto's concentrate production will start in September as the company reopens its copper mine in Mogpog.

Metal prices so far this year have averaged at $592.7 per ounce of gold, $11.00 per ounce of silver and $2.63 per pound of copper.

Income from metal sales is expected to reach P1.13 billion in 2006, up from P1.44 billion in 2005.

The increase is further expected in 2007 to P973.6 million as 2007 with the full-year operations of the company's Bonguet copper mine.

Lepanto had set its stock rights offer for September 11 to 20.

They will be the second stock rights offering of the company since its "1-for-1" rights issue last October, which raised P650 million. The amount raised was used largely to retire debts and pay back shareholder advances.

Under the proposed stock rights offer, shareholders can subscribe to new Lepanto common share for every 9 shares they hold at P0.45 common a share.

Proceeds from the offer will be used to pay P219 million in debts, pay other shareholder advances worth P266 million and accounts payables worth P630 million, including contractor-related accounts and pension contributions.

Lepanto is reopening its copper-gold mine in Mankayan, Benguet province, which was shut down in 2001, in view of the surge in metal prices in the world market, Lepanto chief Felipe Yapchiat said.

Development costs for the copper mine was estimated to hit P1 billion. The mine is projected to generate 7,000 tons in copper concentrate on its first year of production.

Yap said copper prices had surged to $2 a pound this year, from a low of 70 cents in 2002.

Lepanto also owns gold production grossing with the re-opening of the Mankayan mine.

Lepanto was incorporated in 1936 and was operating an complex copper mine until 1997 when it shifted to gold/silicon production through its Victoria Project in Benguet.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Metrobank OKs P3-B loan for Globe 3G venture

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST CO. HAS extended a P3-billion loan to wireless phone provider Globe Telecom mainly for the rollout of third generation (3G) network.

Through this facility, Metrobank is also functioning a segment of Globe's capital expenditure program for its landline business.

Globe president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr. said: "As this business, you never see the end of expansion. Just as one technology phase ends, another one emerges. We're coming close to the end of our 2G nationwide network building, and we are now shifting our focus to 3G."

Metrobank president Arthur Ty said: "The telecom business is very capital intensive and we're happy to assist Globe in expanding its network as it can serve its customers better."

Ablaza noted that Metrobank had always been a crucial partner in building up the telecom company's capacity to address customers' needs. He said Metrobank previously arranged the P3-billion five-year loan for its network capital expenditure.

Doris C. Bumatay

PNOC EC justifies choice of project partner

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO. EXPLORATION Corp. (PNOC-EC) refutes claims by Singapore Global Exploration Corp. that it has a "right to match" any offer of a foreign company to develop the Malampaya deep gas field.

In a statement, the state firm said this was because the selection of a partner for the Malampaya oil leg was merely a farm-out offer and, therefore, not subject to a bidding process.

Reiterating had written, PNOC-EC, saying, it wanted to match the offer made by Singapore-based Mitra Energy Ltd. to develop the Malampaya oil reserves.

Reiterating invoked the Philippine Petroleum Act of the Manila Water Bond case.

The Supreme Court had said that "where circumstances dictate the highest bid to a public bidding concerning the grant of rights, privileges and concessions covering the national economy and patrimony, thereby recording the bid of a Filipino, there is no question that the Filipino will have to be allowed to match the bid of a foreign entity," Reiterating said in the letter.

"And if the Filipino can live the bid of a foreign firm, the award should go to the Filipino," it added.

PNOC-EC, however, said this did not apply to the Malampaya oil because in Mitra would merely enter into a farm-out agreement with the state firm.

This was a usual practice in the upstream petroleum industry to minimize a company's exposure to business risks, as well as to harness the technical expertise and capital of other entities.

"Unlike the Manila Water Bond case, which involved the sale of a government asset, the Malampaya Bond, where the financial package being offered by the bidder is given premium, the Malampaya oil project involves huge technical risks, hence the premium is on the technical qualification of the prospective partner," PNOC-EC said.

The Malampaya oil leg development would not involve the disposition of any "national patrimony," PNOC-EC said. The state would retain ownership of the oil site, merely allowing Mitra to develop and extract it from the reserves.

PNOC-EC added that it was also looking for a technically suitable partner for a project of such magnitude.

"Incidentally, after due evaluation of Swagold's proposal and supporting documents, PNOC-EC found that it lacks the necessary technical and financial qualification to be PNOC-EC's partner in undertaking the project," the state firm said.

Shares close ...

From page B1

after trading between 2,321.33 and 2,337.90. Volume was 2.2 billion shares worth P1.29 billion (US$ 8 million).

The all-shares index fell 3.77 points to 1,441.19.

Gainers led losers 68 to 66, with 52 stocks unchanged. AFP

BSP to start offering long-term deposit instruments in August

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD HAS approved the offering of longer term reserve deposit instruments by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to banks.

This will allow the BSP greater flexibility in managing money supply and lower banks' maximum maturity.

Effective Aug. 16, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will make available a new instrument called reserve deposit accounts (RDAs), an alternative means of complying with the liquidity reserve requirement, to banks, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Tetangco said RDAs, which were comparable with the treasury bills offered by the government, would come in various tenors—3-month, 6-month and 1-year maturity.

The BSP earlier approved the creation of the RDAs that would allow banks to place cash in three-month special deposit accounts with the BSP.

However, in last Thursday's meeting, the MB approved the offering of RDAs with tenors of six months and one year, Tetangco said.

The instruments will carry the same yield as that on the liquidity reserve requirement but at a lower cost for banks.

"This is good for the banks in the sense that instead of having these buy government securities to comply with the liquidity reserve requirement, they can opt to place their cash in RDAs and they don't have to mark to market," Tetangco explained.

The BSP now gives the banks an option to either buy government securities or deposit the equivalent amount in a reserve deposit account with market yielding rates.

Banks are required to keep 23 percent of their total deposit liabilities and deposit substitutes as reserves with the BSP, half in interest-bearing treasury reserves and the other half in non-interest yielding government securities as liquidity reserves.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo added that the offering of RDAs in varying tenors would complement the issuances of T-bills.

At the same time, he said the RDAs could be an alternative monetary management tool for the BSP, on top of the reserve requirement and open market operations which were more costly.

The implementation of the RDAs is not seen to result in any monetary tightening as there was no plan to hike the reserve requirement rate, the BSP officials said.

DOF expected to raise TPL coverage amount

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS EXPECTED to double the amount of coverage contained in the third-party liability policies of vehicle owners.

Insurance Commissioner Evangelina Encinilla said her office had already submitted the circular covering the increase in the insurance coverage of vehicle owners to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves for signing.

The circular is expected to be out in the next few days, she said.

Under the circular, the amount of the Compulsory Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance (CMVLI), with respect to third-party liability, will be increased from the existing P50,000 to P100,000. The amount applies for both private and public motor vehicles.

Third-party liability insurance is meant to cover expenses in the event of injury, death, or damage to property resulting from the use of the insured motor vehicle.

Encinilla said the circular would enhance the quality of services offered by the non-life industry to the public.

She said the increase in the amount coverage would not mean an increase in the rate of premium collected from motor vehicle owners.

Premium rates for one-year CMVLI coverage are: P680 for private cars; P610 for light and medium trucks; P1,200 for heavy trucks; P540 for tourist cars; P1,200 for taxis; public utility jeeps and mini buses; P1,020 for public utility buses and tourist buses; and P650 for motorcycles, tricycles and trailers.

Premium rates for three-year CMVLI coverage are: P1,630 for private cars; P1,370 for light and medium trucks; P2,470 for heavy trucks; P2,130 for tourist cars; P3,300 for taxis, public utility jeeps and mini buses; P4,190 for public utility buses and tourist buses; and P710 for motorcycles, tricycles and trailers.

Another (rebate) program that the Insurance Commission is pushing is the establishment of a clearinghouse system that will permit motor vehicle owners from sale of fraudulent third-party liability insurance policies.

Under Encinilla's proposed program, motor vehicle owners will only be allowed to buy their third-party liability insurance policies from accredited banks, which will then transfer the information to a central clearinghouse system to confirm payments.

The proposal is aimed at addressing the problem on the rampant sale of fake insurance policies.

It is, however, up against another proposal from the Government Service Insurance System. Under the GSIS version, motor vehicle owners will be required to go to the Land Transportation Office to pay their insurance policies every time they renew the registration of their vehicles.

In Cataract Surgery -
There's more than Meets the Eye

After removing the Cataract by Phaco-emulsification, an intraocular Lens (IOL) is implanted in the bag that used to contain the cataract

Galileo SurgiCenter uses AMO-Registered IOL implants produced by Abott Laboratories (Fort Worth, Texas, USA), approved by our doctors, with a track record proven by thousands of satisfied patients

Ask about our AUGUST SIGHT-SAVING PROGRAMS
Trust the Long Term Results. Come to Galileo SurgiCenter and see the difference.

galileo SURGICENTER
Cataract & Glaucoma Center

G/F Bilson House 271 EDSA
(near the corner of Connecticut St.) Mandaluyong City
Phone No.: 721-6612 / 721-7133; 721-4671; 726-4815
www.eyegsc.com

PhilHealth Accredited

Also Accredited by:
MediCard Phil. | MaxiCare | SSS

Church's puts up 1st store in RP

By Rozniel M. Domingo

MR. HOLMES BAKES QUICK SERVICE chick-en chain owned by launched its first store in the country, which the company said would be the springboard of its expansion in Asia and the rest of the world.

Al Ryan Sy, Chicken vice president for international operations, said the store in the SM Mall of Asia was the latest first outlet in Asia, excluding the Middle East.

"We have been on the lookout for opportunities (in many countries) and we found a very good partner here in the Philippines first," Ryan said.

He was referring to Wise Foods Corp., with which Church's Chicken signed a franchise agreement in November.

George C. Tong, Wise Foods president and chief executive, said two more stores would be opened in August in the Metropolis Mall in Alabang and Time Gateway along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Tong said his company's agreement with Church's Chicken allowed sub-franchising.

"Our directions would be to put up new stores within Metro Manila since about 67 percent of the market is concentrated here," Tong said.

Ryan said Church's Chicken's performance in the Philippines would hopefully drive expansion in other markets in Asia, especially in China, Japan and India.

He added that the company had presence in Kuwait, where 14 units were opened in the past one-and-a-half years.

"The request to open at least two new stores in Saudi Arabia later this year and we are in various stages of talks with other possible partners (in the Middle East)," Ryan said.

Inflation rate seen to ease

From page B1

oil prices.

Tetangco said price pressures had started to ease in the second quarter, partly due to the recovery of agricultural production, which led to the moderation in food inflation.

"There was also relatively little evidence of demand-based price pressures as suggested by the existing interest rate and the lower contracts for selected demand indicators," Tetangco said.

Tetangco said that the BSP remains committed to achieving the inflation target for 2007, and addressing the risks to return to Status.

"Managing the risks to inflation expectations and the risk of second-round effects in wage and price-setting, remains a key policy priority," Tetangco said. "At the same time, the BSP will continue to stimulate its support for the government's use of non-monetary measures to address supply-side risks to basic commodity prices and coordinate with concerned government agencies for this purpose."

The BSP believes that the inflation outlook still tends to point up, mainly due to movements in oil prices.

"The prospect of continued oil price increases over the next few months, along with expected adjustments in domestic power rates, point to a continuing overestimate of supply-side pressures," Tetangco said. "Such a prospect increases the risks to inflation expectations and the likelihood of second-round effects, particularly on wage-setting."

BIR reports drop . . .

From page B1

like cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.

BIR data showed that collection of excise tax on petroleum in the first half reached only P5.77 billion, 40 percent lower than the P9.62 billion collected in the first half last year. Still, the latest excise tax collection on petroleum was higher than the P5.26-billion target.

Despite the year-on-year drop, the excise tax collection recovered by 6 percent, the BIR's target for the period. Encinilla said she is pleased that the BIR set a goal of collecting P27.06 billion in excise tax during the first half.

Of the excise tax collection in the first half, P6.38 billion came from alcohol. Although the figure was 11 percent lower than the P9.1 billion collected in the same period last year, it was still 4 percent higher than the target of P7.73 billion.

The BIR said the drop in the collection of excise tax on alcohol could be attributed to lower consumption.

Excise tax collection from cigarettes, on the other hand, registered a substantial year-on-year increase of 31.4 percent. From only P10.48 billion in the first six months last year, the BIR collected P13.7 billion in excise tax on cigarettes in the first half this year. The excise tax collection on alcohol was also 10 percent higher than the P1.2-billion target.

Data also showed that collection of excise tax on nonalcoholic products reached P920 million, lower than the P1.32 billion goal, and lower than last year's P1.19 billion.

MANILABANK Corinthian Hills Branch
is now open to serve you!

with Saturday Banking!

* Longer weekday banking hours (9 to 5)
* Saturday banking (9 to 12)
* Very friendly service
* Very convenient parking

MANILABANK
CORINTHIAN HILLS BRANCH

More branches are soon to open at:
* Mercedes Avenue, Pasig City
* Makiling City
* Silliman, Quezon City

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

Quitting smoking need not be on will power alone

By Charles E. Bakar

NICOTINE, FOUND IN cigarettes and other tobacco products, is so addictive it is compared to powerfully addicting substances like heroin and cocaine.

"This is why even with the knowledge of risk of developing a myriad of health problems, a great many smokers still puff away and actually get a great deal of pleasure from it," said Dr. Raffaello Castañeda, Philex medical consultant for nicotine dependence.

The doctor however, admitted that most of these smokers have expressed a desire to decrease or even quit on it, with four of millions seriously attempting to quit each year.

"Quitting easily, most relapse within just a few days, and some of those who try to quit on their own achieve more than a year of abstinence," he lamented.

First-line treatment

He explained that many smokers wrongly believe they can simply put down their cigarettes and walk away forever.

"Once smokers become dependent on nicotine, they may experience strong physical and emotional withdrawal symptoms if they try to give up. These symptoms may include irritability, depression, anxiety headaches, lack of concentration, disturbed sleeping pattern, cravings for sugar, drowsiness, tiredness as well as irresistible cravings for more cigarettes that are hard to overcome with will power alone," he enumerated.

It is for these reasons that the World Health Organization and several governmental health agencies worldwide recommend nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) as a first-line treatment to beat the smoking habit.

"They come in the form of gum, patch or lozenges, designed specifically to break the daily addictive cycle by offering a gradual, controlled delivery of nicotine to the body," explained Castañeda who nicknamed the launch of Pfizer's Nicorette—a supportive gum containing 2 mg of nicotine—the country's first NRT to be available over the counters.

Toxic chemicals

Castañeda explained many nicotinedependent smokers actually prefer to light another cancer sticks, rather than the smoke. The doctor may keep you smoking, but the addicting substances alone does not cause cancer. Rather it is the cigarette smoke—that is full of hundreds of toxic chemicals (such as tar and carbon monoxide) inhaled along with nicotine—that does."

He said that quitters using Nicorette, can double their chances of success versus quitting without help since chewing gum dosage form also provides some oral gratification and is so effective that helps explain part of the ritual of smoking.

Castañeda explained that everytime smokers reach to drinking coffee, to the morning or to taking a break at work trigger the urge to smoke.

"During those times, cravings for a cigarette are actually the brain looking for an intake of nicotine. With Nicorette, a sufficient and temporary controlled fast doses of nicotine in a timely manner, teaching the brain to live with less nicotine and thus overtime it is not like," he said.

Safety studied

Although hundreds of studies involving tens of thousands of participants have demonstrated the safety of Nicorette gum even in populations with specific health conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, lung diseases, and stabling heart disease, Castañeda said those who are pregnant, planning to get pregnant, breastfeeding mothers or others taking medications to seek first a doctor's advice.

"Nicorette gum, which was approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for prescription sales in 1984, and without a prescription in 2005, has helped millions of smokers worldwide quit successfully and live longer tobacco-free lives," reports Castañeda.

However, he stressed that smokers must understand that there is no magic pill to smokers and healthcare professionals need to know that successful quitting requires a combination of medication to control and modifying behavior.

Castañeda added that quitting is not easy considering that there are factors such as cigarette's easy availability, the small number of legal and social consequences of tobacco use and the sophisticated marketing and advertising methods of tobacco companies that are working against the quitters and so he or she must be determined.

'The eyes have it'

LAST YEAR ACTRESS SHARON STONE made headlines when she managed to raise one million dollars in court minutes during an international forum on malaria. In a panel on sexuality, she was speaking about the

Maricor Santos Balbon

[illegible] at the University of Newcastle to test this very theory. Their paper appeared in the [illegible] Royal Society's early online publication section of the journal Biology Letters last June 26.

Existing situation

Unlike other studies which use volunteers or students as participants in the experiments, Robertson et al. took an existing situation within the community's psychology department and modified it for their own purposes. We trust Dr. Derek, even in this department has had a self-service honor system wherein anyone of the staff can prepare their own coffee or tea and then pay for the drink by dropping the correct amount of money into the honesty box, next to the ingredients and machines used.

The room itself is set up in such a way that no one can actually see whether or not anyone is in front the drinks, which only additionally the honesty system. The sides and the picture for the drinks worked on a sign that appears above the counter and every six seconds the sign alternates between a picture of eyes and one of flowers, are used with saucer.

Robertson et al. made one modification to the above-mentioned scenario: every week, the sign that appears above the counter shows the eyes and included a small image of either a pair of eyes that stared directly at the viewer or else a similarly sized image of flowers. The participants were unaware that they were taking part in the study and in fact had not noticed anything unusual in the break room's new graphic. At the end of each week, the researchers collected the money in the cash box, replaced the used supplies, and changed the sign.

The researchers found that while the drink consumption did not vary dramatically, during the images period, when the graphic of the eyes appeared on the sign, the money in the honesty box was approximately three times the amount given when the floral graphic was on the sign. It is not clear that the staffers were actually lost their sense of honesty and integrity, but it is safe to say that Robertson et al. found the notion of being watched seemed to make the department staff more willing to respond to an invisible social cue and give money for their drinks.

If paper eyes in a break room can do this much for a department, imagine what several pairs of real eyes trained on more public events could do in the name of interpersonal cooperation, even with, say, Sharon Stone.

Email the author at maricor@manila-times.com.

Recycled leftovers, 3-day ham and math humor

EUREKA!

Gwenna N. Lee-Chua

IN FESTIVE SEASONS TEND TO OVERLOOK AND overeat, but let's face it—it today's trying times), we need to economize. One way to have less food to waste and end up throwing in our leftover foods. Of course we need to ensure that foods not eaten within two hours after cooking should be stored properly and reheated, leftovers should not be kept past four days in the fridge.

Let's be creative with leftovers. A few suggestions from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI):

Make omelette from cooked meat, fish and vegetables, croquettes and tamales from fried fish.

Make pancit and lumpia by making stir-frying and adding with vegetables.

Stuff potatoes with chopped meat and fish.

Make bola-bola by mixing meat, fish, vegetables with mashed potato and dipping in flour, egg and coating with breader mix.

Make fish fingers by adding flaked fish, chopped meat, egg, flavor and seasoning.

Toast bread with margarine or sugar or make into pudding.

Marvin Barrera, my former student, used this a result. I earnest spoke a meal to made class lecture or my first of the subject. But listening, studying, and reading you paid off. I'm now working abroad. Today I saw your chicken recipe in INQ7.com and I will try it. Hope it turns out. I am now here in New York, working for a software company and studying masters at Cornell. Sir, sandra Chase knew making people have to cook every but no one can give me directions. It's a long story but I'll tell you when I see you. My old night then a bowl of chicken tinola and steamed rice to wanted me of here. Thanks, Mr.Cris.

Another recipe

Other readers also revealed how useful the recipes were, so I decided to include another recipe here, a more challenging one for making our own "Lilet Blue," again from the FNRI:

Materials: 1 kg pork pigs, 8 tbsp salt, 4 tbsp sugar, 2 tsp ginger powder, 1 tsp brown sugar, 3 pc oregano, 2 pc bay leaf, 3 pc clove, 1 tsp black pepper, 1 cup pineapple juice

Utensils: Cooking pan, stove, measuring cups and spoons, sponge, stirrer, utility knife and trays

Procedure:

1. Divide salt, sugar and ginger powder into two parts. Combine 1 part to 2 cups water.
2. Inject solution into pork pigs.
3. Mix remaining solution and roll on the outer portion of meat.
4. Cure in the refrigerator for one day.
5. Wash pork in water with onion, and place in a cooking vessel with enough water to cover.
6. Add sugar and spices and cook for 2 hours.
7. Remove ham in cooking vessel and place in a plastic.
8. Broil for 6 to eight and pour over ham.

Math joke

Readers also want more math jokes. Antonio Sanchez offers head Otto Benitez forwards the one:

Maybe Juan wants a lot, but the fortune would have him until he passes a little test. "Here question," the fortune said. "Without using numerals, represent the number 1." Without numerals? Juan says. "Easy," he did as per those lines.

"What's that?" the boss asks.

"See you put an bottle? Two and two and one make nine," Juan says.

"Several questions," says the boss. "Some rules, but this I consider a job."

Juan picks up the picture that he has put drawn and makes a smudge on each one. "See you go." The boss scratches his head and says, "How on earth do you get that to represent 99?"

"Each of the notes in dirty notes. So, six dirty ones and three dirty ones make the nine. See 9-99."

The boss says, "Last question. Same rules again, but represent the number 100."

Juan picks up the picture again and makes a little touch at the base of each note and says, "See you go. One hundred."

The boss looks at the picture. "I don't understand."

Juan points to the notes at the base of each note and says, "A little dirty comes along and wrap by each note. So note one has dirty note and a turd, dirty two and a turd, and dirty one and a turd, for make one hundred. So, when do I start?"

The Manobank Foundation's Network of Outstanding Teachers and Educators, an honor society whose members are the Outstanding Teacher-Awardees, aims to develop a culture of excellence and service among Filipino educators. On Oct. 26 and 27, a conference focusing on practical and future challenges in teaching and learning will be held at the Century Park Sheraton. We invite teachers of all levels to participate in the conference. For details, please contact Dr. Evelina Tiongco at telefax 526-1820 or e-mail evelinationgco@yahoo.com.ph or Manobank Foundation at Tel. 890-6000 or e-mail foundation@manobank.com.ph.

E-mail the author at khanbon@yahoo.com

SM offers to advance tax payment

By Irene R. Sira Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE SM GROUP HAS OFfered to advance the payment of its P50 million in local taxes for 2007 if the Cebu City government agrees to use the funds for its preferred projects.

"This is our initiative. We are just going back to the statement of (Cebu City) Mayor Tomas Osmeña that businessmen would have a say on where the taxes they pay will go if they pay their taxes promptly. It is him we do something for the North Reclamation Area," said Hermes Ferrer, SM Supermalls senior assistant vice president for marketing.

SM Cebu is in the North Reclamation Area.

She said this move was also in line with the direction given by SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy for the SM malls to help build the community around its malls.

She said the proposal was expected to lead to a partnership between the government and the private sector to identifying priority projects and raising funds required to see them through.

"We are happy to be a facilitator in this project. We hope that other people who own lots for the North Reclamation Area (will also join in)," Ferrer said.

The cost of improving the area was estimated to reach over P200 million.

The program includes the relocation of the squatters and vendors, which will likely increase the market value of the properties and spur economic activity.

With the area cleared of squatters, the owners would be encouraged to improve, develop and market their areas, she said.

Ferrer also noted that the improvement of the North Reclamation Area would help encourage more cruise ships to dock at the Cebu International Port.

This year, she said, around three to four cruise ships came to Cebu, with the last one stopping about three days.

Napocor boosts Masbate's power supply to 10MW

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER Corp. has commissioned 13 new generating units in Masbate to ensure full power to the island.

The commissioning of the new generating units, which came ahead of the July 31 scheduled, brought to 10 megawatts (MW) the available dependable capacity in Masbate, including 3 MW of back-up power.

Napocor was directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately improve the power supply in the island during her July 14 tour of the nation addition.

Napocor Small Power Utilities Group (Spug) Division manager Serafin Mainar said a team of technical experts from the Napocor Luzon and Visayas Electric immediately set to work on the generating units as soon as they were delivered, to ensure that they would be commissioned before the deadline.

"We had to undertake the necessary technical and operational tests, to make sure that the generating units will perform reliably and optimally and that the units will, at the very least, meet our very high standards for power plant operations efficiency and reliability," he said in a statement.

As early as last Tuesday, he said four of the 13 generating units were already online, enabling Napocor to bring power backup to Masbate City.

The remaining generating units then were through rigorous testing and synchronization with the power grid, he added.

Masbate had been experiencing severe power supply deficiency since last month after Power Barge 105 caught fire and was rendered inoperable.

The power barge supplies more than 40 percent of Masbate's power requirements.

Meanwhile, Napocor is in the process of offering its Spug areas, including Masbate, to the private sector as the first batch, just focus its resources on further improving and boosting the reliability of its transmission system to those areas.

"Power generation in the Spug areas will be opened for private investors that will help boost economic activity in these off-grid islands," Napocor Spug vice president Lorenzo Mariano said.

A JEEPNEY made of discarded plastic lightens calls for P5B cash in Baguio City.

Mindanao exports hit $423M in Q1, up 11% from 2005

Medco reports trade surplus of $219M

DAVAO CITY—MINDANAO EXPORTS hit $423 million in the first three months of the year, up 10.73 percent from $382 million recorded last year, according to the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

Fresh bananas remained the leading export product, accounting for 21.7 percent or $91.8 million of total export earnings during the first quarter.

Southern Mindanao remained the biggest producer of fresh bananas.

Records showed that the banana-producing region shipped out 1,127,872 metric tons or 99 percent of the total fresh banana exports of Mindanao.

The region covers Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental.

Marsman Drydock, Subics, Del Monte Manillas have operations in the region.

Next on the list of top export products is crude and refined sesame oil.

Exports of coconut-based products accounted for 16.05 percent of total exports in the first quarter.

Desiccated coconut products were received next are supplementary, preserved and fresh pineapples with a 7.89-percent share, and tuna with 4.65 percent.

Also on the list of top Mindanao exports were fresh cut flowers, fish meal, rubber products, pineapple juice, plantations of fruits and other parts of edible plants.

Japan remains the top export destination of Mindanao products.

In the first three months, it bought P91 million worth of exports, mostly fresh bananas, or 22 percent of total exports.

United States came in second with a 21 percent share of Mindanao exports, mostly coconut oil products.

Medco noted that Turkey has emerged as a major trading partner, buying $9.45 million worth of tuna, bananas and coconuts during the period.

Medco said that for the past two years, Turkey has emerged as one of Mindanao's major export destinations for commodities such as fresh bananas, desiccated coconut, flour and fresh coconut (Nata).

Mindanao's exports to Turkey reached $214,883 in 2004, then grew by 93 percent the following year to $410,130.

Mindanao imports, on the other hand, increased by 11.47 percent during the period from $382 million to $425.8 million.

One of the major imports was tire, accounting for 17.16 percent or $34.86 million of total imports for the period.

Medco officer in charge Virgilio Lopez-Lanus said the region's positive balance of trade underlined the island's trade surplus to $219 million from $159 million in the same period last year.

"The good showing of foreign trade in Mindanao at the beginning of the year strongly indicates a healthy economy ready to compete in the tougher global trading arena," Lopez-Lanus said.

"It is encouraging that we have achieved such growth needed to spur business and create jobs for Mindanaoans," he added.

Lopez-Lanus expected the export industry to lead the region's economic growth in the rest of the year. AdFeb 9/ Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Total goes to the Visayas, opens 3 stations

CEBU, THE SUN... (PHILIPPINES) CEBU has received the Visayan market, opening its first three stations outside Luzon in Iloilo and Iloilo.

The decision sealed a partnership with Total Philippines Corp. (TPC) for the same store of at least five dealer-owned, dealer-operated (DOD) service stations in the area for an initial investment of P20 million.

Under the partnership, Total will be (80) percent, while Total Philippines will own the remaining 20 percent.

The joint venture agreement, which was penned just last Thursday, are in Tagbilaran, Iloilo, Calbayog, Iloilo, and San Jose, Antique.

In a statement issued yesterday the company said these were at least two more service stations targeted for completion within the year.

Total Philippines president and managing director Christian Wheatley said the initial investment aimed to open 15 more stations nationwide before the year ends.

"I am confident that we will be able to inaugurate our 100th service station by the time we celebrate our 10th anniversary next year, and continue our commitment to offer consumers a better alternative, a better choice in terms of quality fuels, lubricants, services, and efficient and friendly service," she said.

Total Philippines chair Gary Jones said the opening of the oil firm's service stations in the Visayas extended its commitment to the Philippine market.

The addition of the three new stations brings the number of Total stations in the country to his 46 Iloilo and 31 company-owned, dealer-operated (Cod) stations.

Since its establishment in the Philippines in August 1997, Total has invested more than $100 million in the country's

Abigail L. Ho

GOINGS-ON

Buy Pinoy fair

THE PHILIPPINE EXPORTERS CONFEDERATION, (Philexport), the Chamber of Trade and Industry and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. will stage from Aug. 9 to 12 the 50th Buy Pinoy Export Fair at the Megatrade Hall 2 on Aug. 8 to 11. The SOC was organized by the Mindanao Trade Export Foundation Inc. and DTI Region 10.

Asian Banker awards

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (BPI) and GO Gumbo Montinola will receive the Asian Banker Leadership Achievement Award.

The award is given yearly by Asian Banker, a leading intelligence community and firm that promotes financial services excellence through research, training, conferences and the recognition of those leading the way.

Montinola is the first Filipino to receive the award.

Nikkei gains on strong earnings; Sony leads

SINGAPORE—JAPANESE STOCKS ROSE on Friday, led by firms such as Sony Corp. that reported strong profits, while oil field and commodity prices on fading fears of a quick reversal in supplies from key exporter Nigeria.

But MSCI's index for shares of the biggest Asian companies outside of Japan fell 0.3 percent, dragged lower by losses in Singapore and other Southeast Asian shares.

Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index dropped 1 percent on losses in metal and banking shares.

The dollar steadied after falls in New York against the yen and the euro but remained under pressure on speculation that the US Federal Reserve was set to pause a two-year series of interest rate tightening campaign.

The weak dollar and gains in oil prices supported gold prices as fading fears of a correct, near a one-week high of $648.5 per ounce on Thursday.

The dollar's decline buttressed gold's bloom for Indian and European buyers while higher oil prices raised the specter of inflation, spurring investors to the safety of gold.

In Japan, the Nikkei stock average rose 0.8 percent to 15,275.08 by the midday break after hitting a two-week high earlier in the day.

Sony shares jumped 6.6 percent after the electronics company said on Thursday it swung to a quarterly profit, boosting sentiment forwards.

In South Korea, the benchmark KOSPI fell 0.3 percent as a decline in top chip makers featuring Electronics and tech gains in shares of banks, such as Shinsei Bank and Mizuho Financial Group, which remain about its quarterly earnings that are due later in the day.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng climbed 0.2 percent.

Some analysts warned that some top companies' results had become expensive after recent gains.

"Overall I don't think technology stocks are that attractive. Electronic device firms have performed really well, so it wouldn't be surprising to see their share prices decline at any time," said Yoshihiko Matsuno, investment general manager at SMBC Friend Securities Inc.

Elsewhere in Japan's Aftermarket Group, the world's largest trader of micro-chip makers, fell 9.8 percent while those of TDK Corp., the world's top maker of hard disk drive heads, dropped by the same extent.

The dollar traded at about 115.86 yen, below the August 9-to-shooting stabs on New York where the US currency extended losses from the previous day on signs that the economy was slowing.

The euro traded at $1.2686, a tad weaker than late New York trades.

US second-quarter gross domestic product data is due later in the day, however case futures markets indicate a less than 1-in-zero chance the Fed will raise rates for the 18th time in two years at its meeting on August 8. Reuters

Japanese government bond futures were little changed after data showing an uptick in inflation did not change expectations that official rates will rise gradually. Reuters

Avoid 'blame game,' WTO chief urges

GENEVA—WTO CHIEF PASCAL LAMY urged the opposition's members to avoid playing the "blame game" over the collapse of trade liberalization talks and instead focus on how to restart the Doha round.

Lamy said it was clear that World Trade Organization members did not want to give up on the talks and it has thus needed to keep progress made in the past four years from unravelling.

"This is the time of hard thinking and deep reflection. It is the time for quiet diplomacy—not megaphone diplomacy," Lamy told the WTO's governing general council on Thursday. "I would urge all members to avoid the well-known blame game and instead use this period of reflection for serious and sober reflection on what is at stake here."

Lamy expressed to be taking particular aim at the European Union and the United States, which have spent much of the week blaming each other for the suspension of the Doha round, named for the Qatari capital where it was launched in 2001.

The EU says Washington derailed the talks by failing to offer deeper cuts in subsidies paid to farmers.

The US, meanwhile, targeted Brussels' failure to ease access to its agricultural market for developing countries.

The Doha round aimed to boost the global economy by lowering trade barriers across all sectors, with particular emphasis on helping poorer countries develop their economies through export growth.

The talks were suspended or upscribed, to address the concerns of poorer countries, which claimed that the international trading system was designed to suit rich countries' farm markets remained highly protected. AP

Oil nears $75; Nigeria outage feared lasting

SINGAPORE—OIL BOUNDED NEAR $75 a barrel on Friday, rising for a third day as a major Nigerian export outage threatened to drag into next year and investors' lag violence in the Middle East kept buyers on edge.

By late noon, crude was 9 cents to $74.63 a barrel, adding on Thursday's 60-cent gain, while London Brent crude rose 15 cents to $75.16 a barrel. Investors remain on demand premium as Europe continues to suffer from cold weather.

Royal Dutch Shell, Nigeria's biggest foreign operator, does not expect a "significant" amount of its production shut in by attacks to resume before year-end, CEO Jeroen van der Veer said.

Shell closed 455,000 barrels per day (bpd) of output in February due to militant violence and another 100,000 bpd in the weekend due to a pipeline leak, although the latter may restart more quickly as repairs are completed, he said on Wednesday.

Production in the world's eighth-biggest exporter has been reduced by a quarter, mostly by militant attacks, affecting nearly 1 percent of global supply, said Helen Lowry, commodities analyst at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

"While that doesn't sound like much, it's important because supply is tight and because the crude quality from Nigeria are prized," he said in a note. "Four-three attacks on three-term prospect of the supply coming back to the market."

Shell declared force majeure on exports of its Nigerian Bonny Light crude on Wednesday, while an attack on an Agip Dove station closure a significant exit in the Italian firm's output.

Adding to the market's psychological strain, Israel called up 15,000 reserve soldiers as the 17-day-old conflict with Hezbollah showed few signs of easing, with diplomatic efforts to end fighting in Lebanon.

At a meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Friday, Asian countries and security partners including the United States and Russia will focus on the Middle East violence, which traders fear may endanger exports from a region that pumps a third of the world's crude.

Prices also drew support from a drop in Iran imported drop in US gasoline inventories due to refinery outages and strong demand, which is up 1.8 percent from a year ago despite $3 a gallon pump prices in the world's top oil user.

The third-largest consumer Japan, reduce oil demand has been unseasonably weak this summer as colder and wetter weather deterred holiday drivers, refiners were set to crank up runs in August after gasoline stocks fell to three-year lows in almost two years. Reuters

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Where to Stay Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Sanctuary at the hilltop

AT THE SUMMIT OF THE ANGOC ROAD TO Baguio is a hilltop paradise seasonally cloaked with clouds of fog and dotted by soaring pine trees. This serene enclave of Camp John Hay has now since become an hideaway for many visiting public and families of many locals and foreigners who active coastal living and permanent residents.

For nearly ten years after the privatization of CJH, it has evolved into a complete distinct retreat with real estate properties. Owners of prime residential lots such as the Forest and Country Estates can build their dream house following standard country log designs complementing laid-back mountain lifestyle or may create a new design with Camp John Hay's Home Architect. 800sqm per + Bedroom. These are available on a long term lease and a first come-first served basis.

There are 45 lots reserved in prime areas in the whole Camp ranging from 400 sqm. to 1,200 sqm. single-detached Country Estates located in the vicinity of the Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course and near the golf clubhouse. A few blocks uphill, just a chain of enchanting pines, is your country of Forest Cabins, duplex units made of red Canadian cedar logs and flagpole trees.

As the lessee of CJH are two Canadians, which are conducting a study expected to be completed in 25-year period through a lease back agreement. After that time period, Unit owners have the option to either continue joining the pool of hotel rooms for another 15-year hotel operation or use their units as private residential rooms.

The 189-room Manor, which stands in the site of the Main Club, holds the famous Honeymoon Cottage, Governor of Negotiation and Bell Tower.

Among is the first resident of CJH fully operational even four years now.

By the camp's entrance is a Town Center that houses an impressive two-level Camp John Hay Trade and Cultural Center. Set too far from the convention center is the Filling Station that houses coffee, pizza, ice cream shops, which also serves as a well-lit area. Best selling but chocolate festival is served as the only cowboy grill and restaurant of El Sancho Jamicio than the nostalgic boardwalk riding Shakes at Kalaclyn Bridle Path and Riding Circle that leads to the tranquil

environs of the man-Makramer Forested, is the fascinating world the Rodolfo Sanctuary, Away from city Air Park is the Mile 91, a quaint commercial strip that houses as inn, consultancy, restaurants, bakeshops, and souvenir and novelty centers, among many others. Peoples Movers, a shuttle service is also available by the campgrounds for guests. A trip to Baguio would not be complete without stopping by this tranquil haven, enclave that holds not just colorful and rich past but of enchanting scenic to delight the hearts of every traveler.

Discounts daily at The Bellevue's new Pastry Corner

CRAZY FOR PASTRY? THE SOUTHERN Metro Manila's definitive food mecca opens its new Pastry Corner with its coffee concoctions, homemade cakes, breads and one of the best ube cheesecake in town. Plus, discounts daily at 7 to 9 p.m. at 20 percent off and 9-10 p.m. at 50 percent off on selected pastries and breads (yes, you indulge to your heart's content!

As oasis in the middle of a buzzing business district Ten Bellevue in the third level of The Bellevue Hotel, southern Metro Manila's favorite business and leisure hotel. The Bellevue's new poolside opens its pastry who wish to relax and bask in the flurries of luxury be-

tel living. Apart from its welcoming infinity pool, elegant outdoor furniture, a summery al fresco ambience and complete spa, salon and gym facilities, the poolside also offers mouthwatering gourmet barbecues and burgers. For inquiries, call 771-9181.

Weekend getaway at City Garden Hotel

CITY GARDEN HOTEL MAKATI IS OFFERING fantastic deals for everyone. Come and bring your loved ones for a wonderful weekend or two.

Here, clients are sure of fun and appreciated guest rooms that come for as low as P1,450 per person on a twin-sharing basis. This already includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Le Jardin.

After check-in, try out their fully-equipped gym and sauna or take a dip in their expansive 66 sq.m swimming pool or the Poolside Bar. Or better yet, you may opt to explore nearby Powerplant Mall at Rockwell or Glorietta Mall for some shopping.

But those craving for some Japanese treats, try City Garden Hotel Makati's eye-grabbing food promotion entitled, "Taste of Japan", offering delectable sushi and sashimi, appetizing soups and salads, and mouth-watering Tempura, Yakitori, Teppanyaki, Gyudon and Teriyaki.

After a day of fun activities, try the Bamboo Bliss, a signature Spa package at the newly opened Bamboo Massage & Spa at the Upper Penthouse, or a leisure treatment for more for a relaxing and rejuvenating retreat. The Bamboo Bliss starts with an aromatherapy whirlpool bath, followed by a full body scrub and finished with a lightly relaxing massage.

For dinner, do not miss the Poolside Bar & Grill. Offering sumptuously grilled specialties and appetizers, it has the best view of the metropolis at night. A great way to end a great day!

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7074 Makati Avenue corner Estrella, Barangay Poblacion, Makati City. For reservations or inquiries, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-888-10-CARDEN (1427-336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com.

Weekend buffet at Dusit Hotel Nikko

THE CAFE IS YOUR PASSPORT TO DINING luxuries with its daily thematic buffet offerings taking you to a gastronomic journey to dining stations with a taste of world-class delicacies from the many countries of the world. Must try is The Cafe coffee-logs on weekends for the ultimate in buffet dining.

For a true feel of a beach luxe, The Cafe unveils an extensive selection of fresh seafood delights on ice on the spot grilling of your favorite meat and seafood items during "Surf and Turf" fiesta lunch.

Sunday is indeed a special day for the whole family with The Cafe's Family Brunch Buffet. Enjoy the best selection of Asian and International fare and indulge, to your heart's content, on the mouth-watering Crepe & Waffle station.

The dining hours of the Cafe, is priced at only P950++ for adults and P475++ for children 11 to 12 years old during lunch and dinner.

Listen to the soothing voice of the nightly lounge singer beside the relaxing ambience of the Lobby Lounge and take pleasure in the mouth-watering collection of red and white wines to recharge weary spirits and prep up your evening with friends. Delighted your senses with the Wine Buffet from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. for only P1600++ per person.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 867-3333.

People, Events & Products

ECC GROUP: IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE LAW

The organization of the country's largest consumer engaged in the production of natural and herbal medicinal products, welcomed the early and full implementation of R.A. 8423 known as the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act Senior that was enacted in 1997. In a press conference of the Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Chirp) said that "the full and national implementation of this law is a step in providing our nation with reliable and affordable health care." This law aim to place a new national health policy wherein alternative medicines products and modalities will be developed and integrated into our national health delivery system. Senator Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan (Liberal Party) is supporter is the high priest of medicine and health care. Chip recently held its 20th Member Assembly at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Pasig with the theme, "Unity - Key to Reliable and Affordable Health Care". Representatives from various government agencies and institutions attended the said event in order to map out a unified plan of action for the law's early and full implementation.

Learn International Cuisine with the professional chefs

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO DO ASIAN and European fusion professional chefs? Here's how and be trained by some of the most experienced chefs of the country at Gracious World Food Expo, PhilExpo, Pasig. The country's most anticipated food event to be held this Aug. 2 to 5 at the World Trade Center, Manila, Philippines. On Aug. 4, Friday, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., The Hotel & Restaurant Clubs Association of the Philippines will do a seminar workshop on "Learn International Cuisine with HRCAP". Register now for only P1000 per head. Pre-lunch included. For more information, call organizer Premiere Events/Pan Events Inc. at 635-7865, 3098158, 6364209, 4098800, 9091801 or e-mail at info@PEI-Events.com or log on to www.pei.ph. (The updates are continuous)

Enjoy fresh, nutritious and delicious bread with Gardenia Pan de Sal

THINK OF THE TYPICAL FILIPINO BREAKfast and it's hard to imagine it without pan de sal, a delicious bread that's popular for its affordability and nutritional value qualities that are best enjoyed in Gardenia Pan de Sal.

Gardenia Pan de Sal nourishes your usual breakfast into a truly tasty and nutritious treat. Savor its delicious, baked aroma that will certainly whet your appetite. Made from the finest ingredients, Gardenia Pan de Sal is deliciously soft inside but delightfully crusty outside!

Truly "Sikat sa Sarap, Sikat sa Sustansya," Gardenia Pan de Sal contains vitamins and minerals like vitamin B1 to promote healthy and lower metabolism, vitamin B2 and E1 to boost energy metabolism, iron to help maintain a healthy blood and calcium for stronger bones and teeth.

"Proper nutrition is something that's done on our breasts and something than we believe should be enjoyed by everyone," says Gardenia nutritionist Tita Nilda. She adds, "Bread is one of the foundations of a healthy diet, which is why we must place our meals around bread and other such types of food like rice, noodles and pasta. We at Gardenia are more than proud to be doing our part in making sure that consumers get the proper nutrition that they so deserve."

The company's passion for superior quality and value begins in using only the choicest ingredients, employing unique baking techniques, and the use of automated baking. The unique synergy of high speed automation with the expertise of Gardenia's executive baker and the fine staff serve exceptional ingredients and formulations into distinctive baked goods for families to enjoy wherever, wherever.

LACTUM'S GO FOR 100% NOURISHMENT RAFFLE PROMO

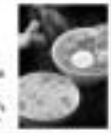
actum product manager Donie Sia, Lactum senior product manager Katrina Sarmiento, BF&C Representative Celina del Rosario and ACI Dakila and Dakila Marikina branch manager Bill Belmonte pick the first 33 winners who won P10,000 each, in the Dakila Lactum preliminary draw of Lactum's Go for 100% Nourishment Raffle Promo. Obviously winners of P1 million plus 4 Mitsubi showcars will be chosen on the Aug. 11 grand draw. Lactum is giving away a total of 100 cars on a 'thank you' to every mother who keeps her children 100 percent nourished. Lactum strongly believes in and is an advocate of the food pyramid being the core of complete nourishment, in its 26 years of existence, the brand has consistently campaigned the importance of ensuring a child's proper nutrition. Lactum is the largest-shaped milk brand in the market for children 1-6 years old. The Lactum group of products is specifically formulated to complement regular meals to help make children 100 percent nourished.

ProductFILES

Jollibee's rainy day meals

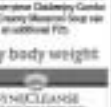
WITH THE ONSET OF THE COLD AND RAINY season, Jollibee, the country's most popular fast food chain, is now offering rainy day comfort meals that come complete with food, nourishing drinks.

The Chicken Solungchon Soup and Creamy Mushroom Soup were recently reintroduced in the chain's menu, complementing and helping make its best-selling Jollibeefog or Burger chalk meals both of the more scrumptiously filling. At Jollibee, there is no affordable and filling meal, complete with broth- or cream-based soup, for every price range. The Chicken Solungchon Soup is offered with the no-price Shanghai Rice Combo Meal for P75, while the Chicken Macaroni Soup can come with either the two-piece Burger Steak Combo Meal for P85, or the can-piece Chickenjoy Combo Meal for P96. The Chicken Solungchon Soup and Creamy Mushroom Soup can also complement any Jollibee value meal for only an additional P25.



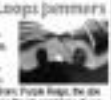
Detox to achieve a healthy body weight

A GOOD WEIGHT MANAGEMENT program requires regular exercise, balanced diet, stress relief, and in many cases, a powerful catalyst to get you started. Synergy's Weight Management line is that catalyst. Synergy's SyneCleanse is one such product. Distributed by Synergy Philippines, SyneCleanse contains six herbal formulas, including Lu-C, Hawaiian, Black Walnut Hulls, Psyllium Husk, Lift-It, and Cleans-Thru. These formulas work synergistically to cleanse and balance the body system, helping them better absorb and assimilate. By taking one packet within meal, every three hours a day, SyneCleanse cleanses body systems including the liver, colon, blood and other organs. By doing so, it helps the body absorb and use nutrients better. Balancing the body system also helps achieve the body's healthy body weight. To take advantage of SyneCleanse's detoxifying properties, visit Synergy Revolution, or call 638-4909/914-6301/ 6401/ Manila/Luzon, (02)534-0611/ Visayas and (082) 233-8150/851-1000/E-Mindanao or e-mail at info@synergyphils.com.



A yummy treat with Hot Loops jammers

HOT LOOPS OFFERS THE PERFECT BIKER FOR school or to the office with the new Jammers, the latest addition to Hot Loops wide variety of goodies. Make your daily routine aerobic and a whole lot more colorful with these mood-delights, which are moving with delectable chubby Wings. These jammers double as fashion accessories for delicious rubbers to choose from: Purple Reign, the chic and nauseous-filled premium blend; Yummy Choco Royale combines chocolate and strawberry Wings; Manila Chocolate is a sweety note of cocoa and mocha; Mountain Lemonings together chocolate and Tarantuan with a choco frosted Jammer and Pink, we have to love the Hot Loops Soft Cookie Sandwich. You can now catch Hot Loops at Mikasa outlets, at selected Robinsons Supermarkets, at selected Fishermans Malls, and at other key locations around the city.



PINOY DOC RELIEVES CHRONIC MUSCLE PAINS IN SECONDS

Pinoy chiropractor Dr. Christian Emmanuel Ramos, an expert in pinpointing every muscle spasm, is treating patients in Metro Manila and Cebu. Ramos, a certified chiropractor since 1998, which will provide immediate pain relief to his patients, lawyer Manuel Martinez. The method is a manipulation of the upper and lower extremities that immediately relieves or dramatically reduces pain in patients suffering from chronic muscle pain syndromes, low back pain and the discomforts of arthritis and fibromyalgia from just one to 10 seconds. It can likewise remedy a host migraine headaches, intestinal asthma and even strokes. Ramos's remarkable innovation relieves pain instantly by a reflex response brought about by a controlled stretching of the patient's own muscle-like called "active manipulation", through careful manipulations of specific parts of the body. The Manila-Cebu-based chiropractor is based in Room 1018, Megaworld Building, 4030 Ayala corner Gamboa St., Ermita, Pasay City. For inquiries and appointments call 830-6845 or 887-8174, cellfone 0920-926 1683, 0920-421 0286.

CSO FORUM ON HIV/AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE

United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Philippines and Ondeil Hannen Townsend Programme Resident Representative Ofelia Nolte recently addressed the CSO Forum on HIV/AIDS organized by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and supported through the UNDP, and Sprint Cares Initiative. Noltes assisted Bruce Rohrbacher to continue to partnership with the national government and the UN in addressing Millennium Development Goal-6 (combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases). She urged the private sector to demonstrate leadership, commitment and action in dealing with HIV/AIDS especially in prevention, care, support and treatment and to establish HIV/AIDS in the workplace programs. The event was held at the Glen Rotel Renaissance Hotel in Ortigas.

UNIFIRST NEWSPAPER DEALERS ASSOCIATION INDUCTION OF OFFICERS, MEMBERS: Marilena Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando, right, inducts the new officers and members of the United Newspaper Dealers Association of the Philippines at the Aberdeen Court, Quezon City Units president Cirilyn Adriano, in blue, leads the inductees

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Project	Approved Budget	Cost of Bid Documents
Straight Lease of an Automated Integrated Remittance System for Three (3) Years	P13,500,000.00 (Year 1)	P 10,000.00

Source of Fund: DBP Fund
"Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening."

Implementation Date: Not exceeding Three (3) months after availability of required equipment
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	August 15, 2006 (Tuesday) at 9:00 a.m.	6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:30 a.m. of August 29, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals (Prospective Bidders are encouraged to attend this activity)	August 29, 2006 (Tuesday) at 9:30 a.m.	6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the RA 9184 and IRR, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or ownership in the name of the Philippines and must have been established/registered and doing business under the laws of the Philippines pursuant to Presidential Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas Memorandum No. M-2006-017 dated 31 May 2006. Only Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas Accredited Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be queried. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the LCB to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms in www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid forms, plans and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 10,000.00. Only those who purchased the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on August 15, 2006.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, cancel the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 818-9511 loc. 2810.

Bids and Awards Committee

PEO - 1st (1/1) Aug 1, 2006

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telefax Nos. (632) 9220101 • 9243 8124/43
Telefax Nos. (632) 9220101 • 9243 8124/43

Project: Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sewer Development Project (PREM) Manila
Loan No.: Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1749-PHI
Description of Works: Construction Development of Sewer Lines in Various Barangays, Manila

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB towards the cost of PHILSAN and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for the Construction and Development of Sewer Lines in Various Barangays, Manila.

2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package:	Construction and Development of Sewer Lines in Various Barangays, Manila
Contract No.:	PRRC-PS-001
Location:	2013 Projects, Manila (Sta Cruz Area, Tondo, Binondo, Manila)
Contract Duration:	365 Calendar Days
Project Description:	Construction and Development of Sewer Pipe and Force System, which include the following items of work: Site Development Works, Earthworks, Civil Works, Steel Works, Overflow Weirs, Concrete Works, Architectural Works, Sanitary / Plumbing Works, Electrical Works and Finishing Works

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit Bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of an Eligibility Checklist to all interested bidders to collect evidence and determine if bidders have an unblocked account and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php10,000.00	From Aug. 1 to Aug. 11, 2006	From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	RPRC, JP MEDS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Issuance of additional eligibility information (if any) and submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Checklist	From Aug. 1 to Aug. 11, 2006	From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	RPRC, JP MEDS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Site Inspection	Aug. 10, 2006	10:00 a.m.	2013 Projects, Manila (Sta Cruz Area, Tondo, Binondo, Manila)
Pre-Bid Conference	Aug. 10, 2006	2:00 p.m.	RPRC, JP MEDS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Deadline for submission of Bids	Aug. 29, 2006	10:00 a.m.	RPRC, JP MEDS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Opening of Bids	Aug. 29, 2006	10:00 a.m.	RPRC, JP MEDS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

4. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the City of Manila shall be the implementing agencies of the Project.

5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". In this regard it is recommended with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans".

6. Bids submitted pursuant to the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Components of the Bidders as provided in the instructions to Bidders.

7. The Bank and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO H. ORTIGAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F JP MEDS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel Nos. 922-1647 and 922-1101
Email address: prrc@pnr.gov.com
Fax No. 920-2236

JP1 - July 29, 2006

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
UNIONBANK
ALLIED BANK
PSBank
METROBANK
Equitable PCI

INVITATION TO BID

A consortium of banks and financial institutions composed of Landbank, PNB, Comerco Grantville, Metrobank, EquitablePCIBank, Union Bank, RPC, Allied Bank and PSBank has acquired certain properties of SAMCAMCO Leasing Corporation listed below. The consortium intends to sell the properties thru a sealed public bidding on CASH BASIS.

Sealed bids together with the 10% bid bond will be received at Room 608, 10th Floor, Landbank Plaza, Makati, Manila on August 15, 2006 not later than 10:00 A.M. at which time, bids will be opened in the presence of interested bidders.

If for any reason, the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
A.	12,484 sq.m. parcel of land located at Brgy. Sampaloc, Tanza, Cavite	P12,737,000
B.	Nine (9) parcels of land with a total area of 1,888 Brgy. Ibayo, Silang, Cavite	P3,400,000
C.	600 sq.m. parcel of land located at St. Anthony cor. St. Paul Streets, San Bosco Village, Better Living, Parañaque City	P2,200,000

For the complete description of the above-listed properties including the bid documents, you may look for Ms. Rita Abuan or Mr. Mark Cawagas of Special Assets Department (SPAD) 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Manila, Manila.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the properties before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. The winning bidders shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the consortium. The award in favor of the winning bidders shall be subject to the approval of the consortium.

THE CONSORTIUM RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY IN THE BIDDING REQUIREMENTS, TO DECLARE THE BIDDING A FAILURE, TO AMEND THE BIDDING PROCESS WITHOUT INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDER OR BIDDERS, AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CONSORTIUM. THE DECISION OF THE CONSORTIUM SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

JP1 - July 29, 2006

PSCP Foundation forum slated

THE PHILIPPINE Council Against Child Pornography (PSCP) Foundation will be holding a meeting on July 30 at 10 p.m. at the 14th floor auditorium of the Cathedral Heights Building Complex (CHBC) South Tower, EDSA, Libis. The meeting is free and open to the public, and is being sponsored by Bantayan Philippines and St. Luke's Medical Center. The PSCP is a registered non-profit organization that was founded in 1999, and aims to provide support to families and patients with Parkinson's disease, dementia, tremor, dystonia, and other movement disorders. Its founding chair was the late famous neurologist Fernando Pelaez. For the second meeting, the toxicologist causes of parkinsonism and other movement disorders will be discussed by renowned toxicologist and neurologist Dr. Carmen Quiapo, one of the Philippines leading experts. The lecture will be followed by an open forum. For reservation matters, interested parties can contact the PSCP at 637-4331 to 1331 or the Movement Disorders Center of St. Luke's at 723-0101 to 0666.

Lavish golf views outside. Lavish loft living inside.

THE BELLAGIO III

Fronting Manila Golf & Country Club

Eat up. Pamper your body and soul to a frenzy. But distractions are to nature's beauty outside and a wealth of space inside. The Bellagio III. Just a glance away from your high floor-to-ceiling windows, is the Manila golf course, with its pristine white sand, fresh green landscapes and clear blue sky. Inside your loft, the feeling is just as lavish. It has two levels of living space, so you can enjoy breakfast in bed overlooking the green, walk around the spacious living area or host a romantic dinner for two right at home. And this is just the beginning. An array of play amenities awaits just a few floors down, while trendy shops and dining spots beckon at the Forbes Town Road across your home. So escape. Break free from the limits of ordinary homes. And bask in the abundance of luxury here at The Bellagio III.

For inquiries, please call us at

815-1888 • 816-2768 • 816-3517

Vested among Asia's first-managed Companies in 2006 by Finance Asia

A Joint Residential Development of

BONIFACIO WEST

and

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

Club to complement 2 seaside communities in Nasugbu

By Charles E. Bokar

CLUB PUNTA FUEGO IS AN exclusive membership club with facilities in both Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego, Landco Pacific Corp. premier seaside communities in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Recently, the club inaugurated several facilities inside its Punta Fuego Marina and Yacht Club, including a bar, chat room, view deck and locker facilities, which provide the marina that will soon start construction.

"A lot of our members and guests have requested for a place where they could hang around after nine in the evening. We decided he (he has others we intend to create a venue for holding cocktails and nightcaps," said Club Punta Fuego Inc. GM Earl Ebuenga.

He envisioned the club to become a virtual epicenter of boating and social activity in the two seaside communities, serving a new standard for elegance, service, and the most beautiful sunset views in the Intragloo, Batangas, area.

Completed

Aside from the 560 the Punta Fuego Marina and Yacht Club already completed its dry and floating berths, moorings and tender parking including individual tagging points for water and electrical facilities.

The vast berthing facilities can accommodate around 30 boats with sizes ranging from 35 to 65 footers while the one level dry parking slots would be able to accommodate approximately 63 boats.

"Once fully operational, the marina can provide services for maintenance, repairs and chandlery items that suits nautical gear," Ebuenga reported.

Weekends only

At present the club opens only on weekends although Bhokar committee chair Jean's Bhokle looks forward to more boats filling up the docks and eventually revitalize the peninsula.

"We have big plans in terms of promoting sailing as a sports here in the area. At the moment we are still planning and organizing several boating and social activities that will gather the enthusiasts here," he said.

Ebuenga is confident that with these developments nearing completion Landco is strengthening itself as one of the country's leading lifestyle developers specializing in high-end residential resorts, subdivisions, club/golf course developments, shopping centers, office buildings, and master planned commercial/business centers.

LANDCO envisions Punta Fuego Marina and Yacht Club to become premier epicenter of boating and social activity for its two premier seaside communities in Nasugbu, Batangas

The Block opens

THERE'S A NEW RES—SO TO speak—in the SM City North Edsa block and it will be adding a new shopping enclosure. In the first SM experiment where it opens today its doors to the public.

The Block was conceived as an annex to the existing mall. Built on what used to be a parking lot, it adds another 79,405 square meters of gross floor area to the main mall complex.

Located to the right of the main mall and linked to it by a footbridge, The Block was designed to be a little more upscale, but not to the point that it intimidates the mass market. With its minimalist modern look both in its interior and exterior, it gives an architectural identity which will be viewed even in the rest of the complex when overall expansion and refurbishment are undertaken and completed.

Façade, atrium

Very appropriately, huge blue and aqua blocks—either glazed or metal clad—intersect the plane of The Block's façade. The glazed blocks is recessed to create a dynamic sightline look with advertising graphics. The simplicity of the mall's façade complements the simplicity of its interiors.

A five-level mall with a two-angular floor plan, The Block features a large central void around which shops are arranged in from a three-level glazed columns. The perimeter shop fronts are embellished (pole) stripe signages, which lend an air of movement and dynamism to the atrium. Bridges cut across the void in a U layout, providing ease circulation.

The atrium's centerpiece is the impressive activity area highlighted by a two-level high square metal structure, which serves as a backdrop to events in the atrium. An equally sized public oval roof tops the core activity center with smaller circular skylights cut into it. The other activity spaces over the main public circulation areas are lined out with playful looking pendulum light cones.

European concept

The SM Hypermarket, which is located on the south first level, opened late June, is the major anchor of The Block. A hypermarket is a European concept that combines supermarket, general merchandise and discount retailers, which in the local setting has also included the new market experience in a mall.

Other SM tenants expected to open today include SM Appliance Center, Surplus Shop and Watsons.

The Block's other levels will house more shops, food outlets and state-of-the art cinemas.

THE BLOCK is the newest addition to SM City North Edsa's shopping excitement.

Makati's first upscale, ruthless lifestyle can be dull drudgery for any mover and shaker. A morning day can leave you stripped of your intensity and passion for living, strapping you to a life of malaise without the energy to reap your successes.

At Mactan Tower, coming home is as warm as it is rewarding. Bask in the seaside sunshine, or energize yourself with a stimulating walk under the sunset. Or live it up at the exciting establishments around the area, such as the Mall of Asia, Blue Wave and Makati Circle. Although the landscape may seem like a world apart, Mactan Tower is a mere half an hour's drive from the hustle and bustle of your Makati office.

Stunning and spectacular living is just within your reach at Mactan Tower. A brighter future is in your hands. Tap into the power of Ayannah living and check out our available units now. Call 555 6888 to see what's waiting for you by the bay.

MACTAN TOWER at BAY CARDEN

FEDERALAND

Simplifying design: Getting what you really want

EXPENSIVE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN better, but simple does not always mean less expensive either. There are some reasons one should lean when choosing or building a home.

The minimalists have this mantra down pat. "Less is more." However, fewer walls could mean more windows, which are at least six times more expensive than plain walls. So the issue really is: What should I look out for in the design of my future home? Can I have a threefold of the beautiful features I see in the glossy magazines? Should I prefer it as open and unadornative a blank canvass? Or is there a comfortable middle ground wherein the look I want blends in with my day-to-day lifestyle?

More practical option

From the start, I always recommend simplicity of design, since this is the more practical option in the long run. The cost of building along simple lines can be so incorporative as you wish. Maintenance and upgrading are easier.

It is also timeless. Usually, employing the latest trend in finishing materials tends to date a house. This means, 20 years from now, if you are attributed some challenge, you would know that it was built during the early 2000s. In the same vein, houses cloaked in massive columns were merely built in the '70s and fancy gallwork harks back to the '60s. Don't get me wrong, there is nothing amiss with the styles from those eras. But wouldn't it be nice for people to think that your house is always now? Isn't it better to live in a place that looks fresh and contemporary?

When choosing a home, evaluate where the money actually went. What is used for the inside structure or merely for embroider? Was it used to buy good quality roofing or just fancy finishes and private dress-carrie accessories? Some structures may look appealing from the outside but may be impractical in the inside.

Mark of wise buyer

A good design comes primarily from a proper and efficient layout, and secondarily by flash, innovation and the stunning that comes with it. More than the amenities that make it "look" home. Find out the purpose of the things you see in your prospective homes... from the layout to the material, size and finishes used. This is the mark of a wise buyer.

Are there more spaces allocated for usable rooms or only for hallways? Yes, you usually gauge the efficiency in planning through the areas allocated for corridors and hallways. Many architects generally mean higher efficiency from architects recognize the area of hallways, that functions also as family halls, which with proper ventilation, increases efficiency. Others, by merely re-orienting doors, can improve convenience and utility.

Another gauge of a working design is the

THIS house designed by architect Charm Chua is a perfect example of simplicity. The absence of unnecessary ornament gives it character.

When choosing a home, evaluate where the money actually went

Service areas

Next, check out the service areas. Would you have adequate space for the maid's quarters, laundry, drying, ironing and future cooking? Some developers leave out these utility areas. Most of them merely leave you with a living and dining area, kitchen and toilets since most buyers are only impressed by these, not realizing that the "working areas" are just as vital. Remember, the service areas are equally important. In addition, see why if there is sufficient natural light and ventilation. Otherwise, how satisfactory are the lighting and ventilation features in place?

When you are planning to build your own home, challenge your architect by asking for the reasons behind his designs and specifications. If you are not satisfied with his explanation, do not hesitate to ask for alternatives. Your interests and concerns are perfectly legitimate. This way, you get a design that you understand and can live with. By working together, you get the house that you want, rather than what he wants. Don't forget, you are the one who has to pay and live in it, not him.

Building or buying a house is a lifetime investment, and an ongoing deal. Make sure that the design is simple and practical enough to meet your needs and wants now as you move in and later, as you live in it. You always have a choice.

100% WATERPROOF
Flexseal
Elastomeric Paint
NO.1
Elastomeric Paint in the Philippines
Available in 27 colors
2005 National Shopper's Choice Award
Available through dealers nationwide

Fast-paced lifestyle at The Residences

From page B1-1

modernist. At The Residences at Greenbelt, Ayala Land took pride to realize your concept of high life.

Housing The Residences at Greenbelt's exclusive and modern ambiance is The Fifth, a podium-level loft, by Ayala Land subsidiary to design excellence. Its other classy low rise may go high—The Fifth is a dazzling place right in the middle of the hubbub of the high life. A perfect investing and inspiring place to relax or to entertain.

The Residences at Greenbelt is truly the truly condominium that offers the genuine, upscale, city living within the Greenbelt lifestyle scene, and the Makati Central Business District. With its distinguished address and the city's only one-way system, it will also provide unparalleled convenience and ease of daily living.

Spend your moments at the nooks of Greenbelt's greenery, parks and shops. You a full life, whether you are a dynamic single or a busy couple with a growing family. Or perhaps the empty-nesters and would-like architecture. The Residences at Greenbelt truly embodies luxury, privacy and exclusiveness. Ayala Land's characteristics of all Ayala Land Premier residences.

Taguig to build 30,000 homes for poor

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF TAGUIG IS taking a bold initiative in the mass housing arena with an innovative program that aims to build for poor residents 30,000 low-cost housing units in 10 years.

Mayor Freddie Tiaga said the project, known as the Taguig Family Townhomes, is the city's way of addressing the country's squatting problem head on. "Families in our cities are living in shame, along sewerways, under bridges and along railroad tracks in appalling conditions. They clamor for land to live on and better living conditions, but the government is hard pressed to meet their demands in any sufficient manner," the mayor said.

Under the program, the city government will put up affordable low-rise buildings in various barangays, with each building composed of eight residential units. Each unit measures 21 square meters.

Easy financing program

The cost of each unit is P350,000, and the beneficiaries will pay through an easy financing program with an initial down payment of P5,000 and the balance payable at P600 to P900 monthly for a maximum period of 10 years. Interest rate for the financing rests for the part-lessee site and recipient.

Some of the units will be subsidized through fundraising efforts by the local government and non-government organizations (NGOs) supporting the project. Others who prefer a P50,000 to P100,000 subsidization will personally get to locate their beneficiaries, the mayor said.

Launch

The project will be formally launched on July 27 at the pilot project site located at Diego Silang Avenue, Barangay Western Taguig City where the first building is under construction, his less than President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro, the government's housing czar, will grace the occasion.

Tiaga said those who are interested to participate in the project by way of contribution, financial or otherwise, are encouraged to coordinate with his office. He said the members to contact are 520-3020 or 520-3027, or the local housing office headed by Eddie Abad. He is also the housing office that initiated the project.

This developer helps clean and green Metro

DETOURS at the Antonio-piloted Maybell Park residences in Pasig are facilitated on both sides by greenery.

IN A SPAN OF ALMOST SEVEN YEARS, DMCI Homes, the real-estate unit of construction giant D.M. Consunji Inc., has proven itself to a staunch partner of the government in the national effort to clean and green the environment.

And this developer's resolve to continue doing so takes on added significance considering that it has been focusing its residential cases in Metro Manila, where living spaces are generally cramped and closing and most of the visible land is paved over by concrete.

Since 2000 when it began operations, DMCI Homes has been building the most comfortable condominium-type communities for urban dwellers, the kind the factionists of the Philippine School for Urban and Regional Planning has canvassed as being most conducive to the buyer's basic needs and requirements.

A common thread runs through DMCI Homes' differently themed developments scattered across Metro Manila's landscape. Whether they're situated in Quezon City, Taguig City, Mandaluyong City, Pasig City or Parañaque City, each of DMCI Homes' developments take which smart-type amenities and facilities have been integrated shows vast open space all around. The housing structures, perdrew with lot panels, a line of trees and shrubbings.

Breathing room

Capitalizing on a concept that would allow a generous breathing room for the residents, DMCI Homes, according to Elmer Ord, in charge for design and construction, began developing its 2000 medium-rise, condo-to-density condominiums surrounded by lush foliage, well-tended gardens and vast open space. "Our top priority has always been to make a neighborhood that is both relaxing and secure and where all the elements of comfortable dwelling are usually and functionally designed and integrated."

In acknowledgment of the high premium on owner affection to home comfort and privacy, DMCI Homes has been incorporating innovative features to its condominium developments—single-loaded, wide corridors, central atriums, skylight voids and covered bridge ways. "To protect homeowners' privacy, we have chosen to create buildings with doors opening onto a corridor instead of a neighbor's unit," said Rina Soriano, DMCI Homes' architectural and engineering design manager. The single-loaded corridor layout is one of the most highly appreciated features of a DMCI Homes unit. So besides fostering privacy, it allows cross ventilation to a condo building to well...the added.

Distinguishing features

A central atrium that houses carefully manicured gardens has also become one of the features distinguishing all of the company-developed communities. An other one is the skylight roof which illuminates the common spaces in every

SKYLIGHT roof of a DMCI Homes' condo building allows plants to thrive indoors.

building the natural way. "Other than being an energy saver, it also makes growing plants and flowers inside the condominium a breeze," Soriano said.

In keeping in tradition of anticipating a homeowner's needs and resolving them first, DMCI Homes continuously implements building innovations that will give its community more breathing room, comfort and security.

Avida develops new community in Pampanga

AVIDA LAND RECENTLY BROKE GROUND in a new community in San Fernando, Pampanga. This is its first step in its aggressive expand in number this way.

The 13-hectare proposed Avida Residences San Fernando is the company's second foray into Central Luzon following another development in Cabanatuan. Valid recently, the Ayala Legacy Properties Holdings Inc. commenced its operations in Metro Manila and in Southern Luzon.

Most competitive city

Steve De, Avida Land's vice president for planning and development group, declares that San Fernando has been cited by the Asian Institute of Management as the most competitive city in the country in the medium-size category based on a seven-point criterion. The categories include the cost and ease of doing business in the city.

The American-themed Avida Residences San Fernando intends to offer lots and house and lots. "We chose an American theme for this development because of Pampanga's strong historical and cultural ties with the United States," explains Herbert Hontero, Avida Land's operation development manager. To close to a century, Pampanga hosted the American base Clark Air Base.

Lot cuts

The lots in Avida Residences San Fernando will have cuts ranging from 120 to 200 sq m, while the house-and-lot units will have areas not less than 80 to 100 sq m. The development is located in between San Fernando and Angeles cities, the two major urban centers of the province.

From Manila, San Fernando is merely two hours (200 even) but residents of Avida Residences San Fernando will be near SM and Robinsons malls. Public markets are also accessible by public transportation. Accessible plying the McArthur Highway, a 10-wide lane in the development, ply routes values Manila and Baguio bound but motorists are limited.

Avida Land has established its presence in five provinces of the Calabarzon economic zone (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon provinces), one in Central Luzon and one in the Bicol region, Bicolano San Fernandezes. Avida Land's chief finance officer, Montenegro in the groundbreaking also, at the ceremony, San Fernando Mayor Ceo Buenzalida welcomed Avida Land to the city.

Timely entry

Avida Land's entry into San Fernando is timely, says Oliver Rodriguez. In a few years, the city is predicted to become a key business center because of its proximity to the Subic-Clark-Diosupag International Airport, an emerging global gateway to the archipelago. The City of San Fernando will also benefit from the development of the Subic-Clark Road and the North Rail System.

In anticipation of these projects, investments will be concentrated at Clark and Subic while a permanent fixation Avenue at the intersection of McArthur Highway and the Olongapo-Gapan Road will be established.

Smaller neighborhoods

Avida Residences San Fernando is expected to attract residents of Pampanga and nearby provinces, as well as Metro Manila residents. Many overseas Filipino workers who hail from Pampanga are also expected to buy homes at Avida Residences San Fernando. "Unlike the traditional residential subdivision laid out in a gridlike manner, Avida Residences San Fernando will have smaller neighborhoods built around a pocket park," Bernardo says.

The model units will be available for public viewing in September this year, when Avida Residences San Fernando will have its grand launch.

Ingenious Land Holdings Inc. is the parent of Avida Land in this development.

For more information about Avida Land, call its website at www.avida.com.ph.

Laeuna de Taal

Along the Tagaytay mountain ridge

One mountain retreat.
One lakeside resort.
One great escape.

Lakeview Ridge Lots

Enjoy endless lifestyle choices at Laeuna de Taal. Located near Tagaytay where the crisp mountain air and breathtaking lakeside view offer peace and privacy. Laeuna de Taal is part of a bigger master-planned community. So whether it's for weekend getaways or for more permanent residential plans, this is the choice for you.

The Lake Club

Imagine having a lake in your own backyard.
With The Lake Club at Laeuna de Taal, you and your family can try out club-organized events and recreation water activities in a breathtaking setting. Make the weekend as peaceful or as activity-filled as you desire. Forge bonds. Strengthen ties. And unwind in the heart of nature.

850-8225 www.taalfilinvest.com FILINVEST

Fast-paced lifestyle at The Residences at Greenbelt

THE MANILA Tower at The Residences at Greenbelt

JAVIER BREAKFAST TO RIO DUTLA. A quick 8:30 video-conference with associates in New York from your study area. Stroll to the Makati office in 10 minutes. Prepare for the presentation at 9. Buy the latest editorials at Gucci during lunch. At 5 p.m., a quick change of shirt for lunch at Gochujo act. And a quick romantic moment under the stars before shut-eye.

Is dream schedule with today's fast-paced lifestyle? At The Residences at Greenbelt, it will be a reality. Don't just be seen—be at the center of it all. Make an exclusive abode right in the heart of the city that will suit the most discriminating of metropolitan dwellers. This unique way of living is offered only by Ayala Land Premier, the new name for the high-end residential developments of the storied and most experienced real estate developer in the Philippines, Ayala Land.

Most importantly, The Residences at Greenbelt will also offer its residents the ultimate, exclusive distinction of having an address that is literally a cut above the rest—at an impressive height of 40 stories. The Residences at Greenbelt is a clear of Filipino design and construction combining the expertise of architects of UP Planners and the trustworthiness of Ayala Land in providing only the safest, most comfortable and reliable developments.

THE FIFTH boasts of a poolside, full-scale facilities, including an infinity pool.

ESCAPE from the hectic pace of urban living, to this exclusive spa at The Fifth.

Efficient space planning

Part of the ingenuity in engineering and design is efficient space planning in all types of units. A variety of 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom units are available to fit anyone's needs, including exciting new loft offerings in the recently launched Manila Tower, the last among three towers that comprise The Residences at Greenbelt. Like the two previous buildings—Laguna and San Lorenzo Towers—experience the fascinating and unique views from the units. Take your pick among breathtaking views of the Makati skyline, nearby Laguna province, the refreshing neighboring village of San Lorenzo, or the romantic horizon of Manila Bay.

Even as these towers are rising with its on-track construction, Ayala Land project team members and engineers are constantly mindful of the convenience and possibilities that present trends and future technology may bring, bringing living in a wireless world, where work and play meet in the course of your laptop. Or where communication with your loved ones miles away abroad seems like they're just a room away, with the crisp and clear reception despite the crowded and busy cellular airwaves of the city.

Technological conveniences

There will surely be more technological conveniences to look forward to. These are adding to the assessments of standard measures in the building systems security points from the parking gates to the elevators, future features in the units for assistance, a biometric reader for hands-off the-house access. Ayala Land has a track record of anticipating the needs of its residents and pioneering innovations for their comfort and convenience. As you and your family's needs grow, just ask and be ready to be accommodated.

PHOTOS PAGE B3-1

Introducing another Landmark, W.H. Taft Residences.

Photo display for announcement purposes only

The latest 30-storey landmark being developed by **Philtown Properties** along Taft Avenue right beside De La Salle University. Embellished with stunningly modern looks and facilities such as a multi-purpose area, swimming pool and WiFi technology. The **W.H. Taft Residences** is the ideal living space both for college students and professionals. So prepare yourself for the art of urban living at the **W.H. Taft Residences**.

To know more about Philtown's other landmark projects, you may call us at 832-8836, 832-8879 or at 0917-8272549 or email us at mailbox@philtown.com.ph

PHILTOWN Philtown Properties

Beyond condos, Landmarks.

Brittany masterplanning creates 'lifescapes'

IN THE PROPERTY SECTION SOMEDAYS, masterplanning at some size sets for affordable-priced projects, particularly high-end residential communities in which marquis Brittany Corp. specializes. In simple terms, a masterplan addresses the needs of end-users, as well as challenges and opportunities in the overall environment, by setting broad guidelines and parameters for all constructed and developments.

Any search on the theme is first encountered in connection with the communities, which guides where facilities and structures are to be located. The second link is a sequence of processes that starts with site acquisition, masterplanning to be followed by the development of infrastructures and products, marketing and sales, project completion, and finally the upkeep of the desired environment for the completed development.

Successful masterplanning for a residential community results in housing, leisure, commercial and other relevant applications developed within a timeframe, with their intended level of quality sustained over time.

Mind crucial

"A key element of our masterplanning, perhaps the most crucial, is the vision that drives the creation and sustainability of each community," says Ang Ivanico, Brittany president and CEO. "Of course the other factors that determine the success of masterplanning are important. These include the needs of people who are involved, the physical and natural surroundings, communication and transportation requirements, and the demand for livability and responsiveness in planning and services.

"But first, Brittany's masterplanning starts with a vision of what living the good life can be for the residents of a community," Ivanico says. "It's about being sensitive to how people want to enjoy life to the fullest. So our masterplanning sets out with a vision leading to the creation of a total 'lifescape' for each community, a complete environment with architectural, spatial, emotional and psychological dimensions, which did not previously exist elsewhere, that brings a new quality of life experience for residents, enhancing their enjoyment of living day after day."

Carefully selected themes

According to the firm's chief executive, carefully selected themes inspired by some of the world's most desired destinations uniquely enrich Brittany's masterplanning, leading to well-planned communities that go one step further by creating distinctive 'lifescapes' which please the senses and reward mind, body and spirit.

"The application of thematic influences for each community—whether elegant Italian for Portofino, San Francisco neo-Victorian for Brittany Bay, Iberic for Costa Mesa, Caribbean for The Islands or American South for Georgia Club—is not intended to imitate the place that inspired it," says Ivanico. "Rather, these themes are evocative, complementing the life experiences of residents who are cultured, sophisticated and well-traveled. Brittany residents are privileged people, 'citizens of the world,' the adds.

Conscious of realities

"In the development of Brittany communities, we are also conscious of realities like electricity to transport and travel infrastructures in the metropolis. Developers access and location as to place of work or business, and facilities for education and health care, as well as other needs like shopping, leisure and recreation are important," Ivanico says. "Also, our masterplanning ensures that to the best extent feasible, Brittany communities are established on an economic and physical scale that ensures they are self-sustaining, self-contained and serving residents' requirements, according to the concept of each community."

"Apart from vision in masterplanning, Brittany has the proven commitment, reliability and ability to fulfill the ultimate promise of each community enabling residents to savor a 'lifescape' that is both inspired and inspiring," Ivanico concludes.

Super Countdown

29 days 'till KC's Super! arrivals' fair

Super

Style . Urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Kris Aquino vs Claudine Barretto in 'Sukob' screamfest page 04

Bergy Manotoc ties up with Isabel Roces to display their stripes page 03

Black Eyes Peas and Jasmine Trias party together! page 01

Tim Yap and Pepe Diokno play with the Pussycat Dolls page 01

It's raining phones.

Hurry to The Sun Shops and get these hot, new phones now!

Handsets	Plan 350	Plan 600	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500
LG U2100	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 2310	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola C261*	2988	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6070	3,600	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Samsung X660**	4,599	1,008	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola L6**	2,850	750	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola V3**	11,376	8,526	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson W550i*	13,999	11,149	7,716	FREE	FREE

Sun MyVault

Securely back-up and restore your phonebook contacts and text messages anytime, anywhere. Text MYVAULT to 2877.

sun CELLULAR

Better network, better value.

FLIGHTS OF FANCY: Businessmen Chief Int'l Pilots-up Artist Kalayaan Ucchido with JALCo Pio Pascual, Sulo Bulton & Sumobi Ino

HOTO-BEAUTY: Maxercia's Mari Librojos, Shu Uemura Int'l Brand Promotion Stephen Bacz & Sanyo Infinity's Toni Valderrama

HELLO MOTO: Shu Uemura Sr. Product Manager Tina Dingen

Lost in tran-shu-l

Text and photos by Tim Yap

TOKYO IS NOT MY KIND OF town, really. It's crowded and filled with people who seem to take out their frustrations on their hair. Cab drivers, because of the city's supreme size, tend to get lost. People tend not to sleep, what with the 1001 things to do on any given night.

"Who on you feeling?" Jessi Epperson roared me, and reminded me that, in our like Uramoto out of Tokyo, that's come here daily at ten...in the morning!

Traveling with beauty editors and beauty junkies has its rewards. Our 36hr Uramoto stay in Tokyo made me realize and understand the more subtle aspects of lipstick, moisturizers and cleansing oils. Now I can dispense beauty advice better than the Mi-Five.

What did my Tokyo kit contain? A Motorola V3i phone (Japan uses a different network) that made me enjoy Hotel Gallery and Addict Mobile perks (Smart SC—sexy to-go's) and my Japan Airlines business executive class ticket! Upon special check in, I immediately be-friended Mi's Pia Pascual and Sulo Bulton to waive my overweight charges...and they did! Apparently they did it for the whole group as

WHERE'S THE AFTER PARTY? Tim, Celine, Tina, and Jessi go on their search

BEAUTY CHECK: Preview's Agee Bongcon and Shu Uemura's Nova Dragon

FASHIONISTA: Maya's Carla Sibal

DON'T CRY: Shu Uemura Business Unit Manager Tina Tiele

ation

MAKE-UP MEMORIES. Mutya Pagaduan's Cat Eye photo was Shu Uemura's latest lipstick range

ELEVATE OUR VIBES. We wanna go high, eh! There's no where to go but up—together—for the Philippine Team

SUPER FILIPINAS IS ON TIME. Team Philippines Barbara gone with their Limited Edition OOH watch at New York Grill on the Park Hyatt Hotel

UNMASK. Shu Uemura Cleansing Oil your vanity. Mr. Shu Uemura, since 1960

TALES FROM TOKYO. Chat Cornelio and Marco Antonio

ON TOKYO. As the Governorate Flagship Boutique, Bonpoint at Louis Vuitton Ginza Tokyo Tokyo Dragon

CONGLAS-PATS. Justin Cohen-Antonio

EATING WELL DESPITE DIABETES

well-versed. Was par to none Ben Tisoy was at the helm of things (with eye-popping outfits at that), as it was perfect timed beginning to end. Deutchal (Cue: Français-Bob) ... !

I know you want me. I know you do ...

When we got to Tokyo, it was three hits. It was like I was bathing in Shu Uemura cleansing oils in which body-exposed is so in. Reserved crannies literally where the revered cosmetic brand was born. We went to Kit Denton's studio where we watched a pottery lesson, ate Asha Tsushiro (the latest artist collaboration for the Limited Edition Dreaming Orbs), had a depato dinner at the Shiseido's Modern Art's Aqua restaurant at the brand unveiled their newest Sepia's monitors skincare line and met the man himself!

His wonder everyone's skin was glowing—despite the alcohol and late nights (among other Japanese indulgences) and yakiku (Ginger Ochiai's fault!)).

But yes, I sat through and totally earned make up product launches, a make up demo (can an anti by TYE master himself, Mr. Shu Uemura ("This is a man in a fabulous coat!" gushed Ben T) at a waterside Philippine team observed every freakin'smile capacity in-accented by Shu per Shu Uemura.

In between the official action packed itinerary, we had our own "action" as well. We hopped to oxygen bars, ogled costume shops, went many-story mini palaces in, ended bun fun close at lunch time, binge shopped at 24 hour convenience stores (Basenori! Ramen! Ramen!) and gasped at open-10 into-wides Women, gyuku Women, gyuniu Ramen, gyuku's—and still I haven't found my Uncle of Miss Saigon! (if Who: On Tokyo!

And yet in between all that "action," we still made time to go Hanpein and Mahora shopping, where we all had our recipe recommendations, eying to outdo each other with treasures found. Good thing I had my personal stylist Jenni on my side. Everyone else had their own cohab to carry their goods. Jackie Cohen threatened to have others she declared the Mote motto of the Harper Mo trip... "Consume!"

And indeed we did.

SEEING. Shu Uemura Honey before their eyes: Lee Lemoine, Jackie Cohen-Antonio & Cat Juan

HOT TO THE PARENT: Former President Corazon Aquino, Kris Aquino, James Yap at the "Sukob" premiere

BONDED IN LOVE: Raymart Santiago, Claudine Barretto

DIRECTOR'S DIRECTOR Chito Roño

CI THE WORD: Lucy Torres-Gomez tried the film, too.

A `Sukob' screamfest

Text and photos by Tim Yap

I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME TO CATCH THE cinema go dark. Scarcely as the first scene, people lining up at the Megamall Cinema were already high pitched. Because the venue could not accommodate the fans who wanted to see the premiere of Star Cinema's latest horror baneur, "Sukob."

I made it just in time, and thank you Claudine, for saving me a seat...forsaven you and Rita. I felt like director Chito Roño could realize I became the rare freaking hellos of the film. And when I looked at my seat, I saw that it did not. "Chito Roño," What followed were a neverending sensation of different proportions. Ladies and gents, do not watch this film alone.

I am usually prompt and I piss my sometimes during suspense films because I end up chanting as them at every "bukgat" moment. Halfway during the film, I think Kris couldn't take it so she switched places with Bubby James and I ended up shushing and jumping at him instead (sorry James). I overheard someone comment in shock at the screen and I thought the voice sounded familiar. "Kasagot! Kakasabot talaga!" The voice is yellow cinnamoned. It was Tita Cory.

Later on, Josh arrived as well but he wanted to go home and spend some time with Mommy Kris, even though he (like most of those in the fantastic bunch) was in full force up well, applauding with Claudine's line at every scene where her famed "mouthwatering" shone through. In one scene, her character was crying—with just one tear flowing down her cheek, the entire room—Beat that.

Rita, on the other hand, had her face written all over her face. Just by watching her, you'll know that something is about to come up (or down). She doesn't disappoint. But the entire session of the film is the "Bonnet girl," who appears on many times that she deserves top billing. But even Sadako had (her) weak seven nine.

The ending scene is a terrifying twist to the story— but I'd rather not tell you about it. I think I lost my voice screaming at every suspense and horror filled moment. If you like that kind of line (I know I don't)—go see 'Sukob.'

PETIT HONOR: Rich. Carol Chong and Donnie Yanson

FAMILY AFFAIR: Marjorie Barretto and Dennis Padilla

LOVE BIRDS: Kenneth and Cindy Yang with Michelle Yap

S-FILES. Randy and Rowell Santiago

FAMFEST: Mark Dalisay and Raya Martin

CRUSHINGS. Carla Zamora

Sabi ni nanay

"Walang libre sa mundo.
Pero pag nag-download ka meron."

SMART Buddy

DOWNLOAD +5 FREE TEXTS

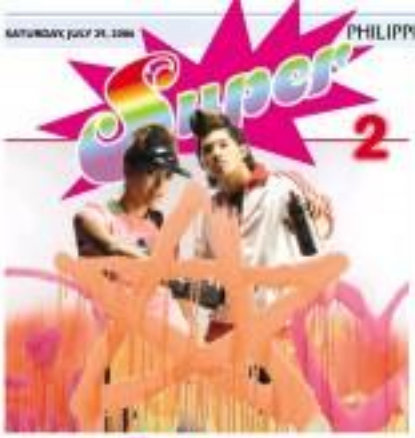
Get 5 free texts for every P15 download!

Text F5 to 5355 now!

Start off your weekly downloads with any of these! Text < > ON, send to 5355

May libre kang text sa bawat download!

SMART BUDDY



The Art of Balance

"I went into the woods because I wanted to live deliberately: I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life... to put to rout all that was not life; and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."
—Henry David Thoreau

THE WAS WHEN I THOUGHT that "sucking out all the marrow of life" as Henry David Thoreau once wrote living someone to someone to the extreme. Back then, I had merely heard that line from the film, "Dead Poet's Society" and I personally equated extreme to excess.

Tats Diaz

That need to "go to the extreme" pursuit of different aspects and chapters of my life. In work, I would overwork myself until I hit unparalleled levels of stress. When I reached a breaking point, I decided to go on a personal sabbatical and took humming around to idle bliss to the extreme, until I had felt that being idle contributed nothing to the world. Even when it came to partying, I would last until

A BALANCING PRESSURE. Isabel Rocco and Bongz Manatad for adidas heritage tucked sports the Dasara 83 series including tees and Hoodies while Bongz does the tracktops for men from the adidas heritage Fall/Winter '09 collection

The Art of Balance

Frontpage D1

the last record was spun, even before the sentimental fair, smarters and sweets and sweets are gone, thanks to the deadly combination adrenaline, alcohol and nicotine clouds of nicotine.

Only recently had I realized that returning to the point circle in different aspects of my life was actually a part of the process of finding myself in the center. For me, it was understanding the deeper meaning of Bertram Brown's "Middlelife"—the prince who embraced between anxieties and hedonism, before he found that elusive Middle Path. Reflecting on my own "Mr Brown" that were punctuated by a surrounding hour with quarter life crisis management, I've come up with a personal manifesto. Allow me to indulge.

Work like a workaholic, and party responsibly.

I've heard the anthem so many times—"work hard, party harder." I've observed many hardworking city people maximize this in weekend revelries, which is absolutely forgivable because of what use is slaving away in the cub mines during the week. If you cannot own me the sunlight? Lately, though, I've taken to the mantra, "work like a rockstar." Work for what you believe in, and through that, working becomes more of a pleasure, and not a necessary evil. Work becomes a passion and not an obligation. Then, the weekends or even the after-hours become fun of no escape but more of an enjoyment. Think of them as close, languid sips of wine as opposed to three straight shots of tequila.

See the world, yet always come home with closure right.

Traveling around the world is admittedly my biggest addiction, and yes, it is true that I tend to outstay for months in an exotic locale, shooting many times to cherish in changes there and be disconnected from the Manila vortex of issues. So it is but natural that many believe me to have totally given up on the Philippines, and whisper of this "unpatriotic lost boy" mentality. This is the farthest from the truth, for I believe in serving the world things you, and you can change the world.

Even in my longtime nomadic sprees I can never seem to leave the Philippines, and more importantly believe that my fierce patriotism is enhanced. Observing foreign cultures and ways of life from Sydney to Siem Reap, Monaco to Montevideo, Brunei to Buenos Aires, I'll always feel compelled to come back home in order to effect change, in however way I can. Even if it's through haunter down and gone, or ornaments of rhyme, in longfellow sense, we are all "architects of fate."

Make money, but don't let money change you.

At all seems, work hard, take on those cadaver and ridiculous and cute well. We money and material things should never be an obsession and the one's sole life pursuit. For there are so many more essential things that money can never buy, like the precious bonds of friends and the love of family.

Be loyal to your friends, and be loyal to yourself.

Friendships are sacred, and we've all succumbed to peer pressure in many times in our lives. So when it reaches a point that we are blinded by loyalty or are pressured to fit in, that we end up compromising our own set of values, for give in to the devil that sits on our shoulders), that's when a degree of selfishness must take over man's life indifference, and weigh how must rule over blind love, if only to better learn the intricacies of true friendship.

Have a healthy social life, yet indulge in an extraordinary life of solitude.

It may be a point of contention, but Manila does have a great night life, from "high profile" establishments in Makati or the Fort, the boho landmarks in Malate, the underground enclaves of the indie bands, the surreal, semi-establishments-alone disreputable dog is out to the finish in fractured, taglights, and even the darkest holes in the wall for the intrepid barfly. Yet comparing the late night drinking options with weekends of solitude for some down, reflection and well, just good of chilling does wonders for soul.

Innovative trips, but make a statement with substance.

Where to strike the balance between over and inner luxury? For me, it's all about expression. For if style is the story of one's thoughts, then taking time out to look good and devote stuff to me a sign of respectfulness.

Sit with gratefulness and thus among lepers.

It was Joey Hilbert who first told me this, when I first met her and ended up having a long, pleasurable conversation with her by a fireplace, sometime ago, and somewhere in the world. As she spoke about her battle with cancer, we spoke about looking back at her life and having the privilege of sitting among presidents, and the rarer, greater privilege of being among lepers at a colony in Palawan. (Uncle Ike here (Jo Cuenco's life changed when he worked in a leper colony in Peru). To never understand the human condition is recognizing the realities of the world: being characterized by suffering, oppression, and disappointment. Recognizing that should lead to some very real conclusions ... not pity, for people, and by acknowledging the power that even just one person can do can effect real, positive change.

Finding that balance, that center, is a slow process of undergoing real life experiences. The greatest teacher in finding that balance is life itself.

BE PROUD OF YOUR HERITAGE. Isabel in an adidas heritage white track top with body-line detail

FREE TO LOVE. Isabel sporting the adidas Originals track top

STRIKE TO LIBERATE. Bongz dons the tracktops for men from the adidas heritage Fall/Winter '09 collection

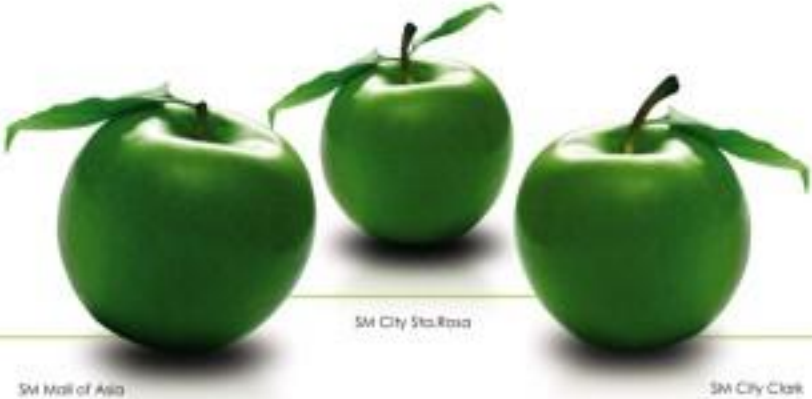
Photographer: STEVE TIRONA
Styling: PATRICK TY
Stylings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Makeup: DIDI GONDA for SHU UEMURA
Hair: JANET DE RAMA
using KMK'S STYLIST SERIES

INQUIRER Badminton

Served fresh, monthly.

Available at all major badminton courts nationwide.

more options . . . *naturally*



healthy options

The Sound of Silence

Roland
WE DESIGN THE FUTURE
E-09
IDEAL YUMANGO & CO., INC.
www.yugiogroup.com

IN THE MOVIE THEATERS OF OLD, A PIANIST or a full-fledged orchestra was a common sight in the cinema house. Years before such acronyms as THX, CGI, or DTS were coined, the silver screen was ruled by the silent film (in subtitles), considering it was usually accompanied by live music). And a centrally-challenged disruption by the same

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Gloria

of Charlie Chaplin wearing his signature bowler cap, bamboo cane, and toothbrush mustache—was the Tom Cruise of this 'little-to-no' era medium.

Today, the blockbuster "silents" of this bygone era are fast becoming a rarity for classic film enthusiasts. Over the decades, their

Ma$Sh Active Saga Project plays the soundtrack to the silence.

mystore.mysm
urbanism®
the life and style of the city dweller
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO · MAKATI · CUBAO · HARRISON · NORTH EDSA · STA. MESA · ORTIGAS · LAS PIÑAS · BACOOR · FAIRVIEW · BANILA · PAMPANGA · SAN JUAN · CEBU · DAVAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO · BACOLOD · LUCENA · BAGUIO · MARILAO · DASMARIÑAS · BATANGAS · DELGADO · SAN LAZARO · BICUT · STA. ROSA · CLARK · iMALL OF Asia

pristine prints have succumbed to decomposition and rolling deterioration. But before they crumble into dust, we have a chance to see why such films were all the rage from the 'forts of the century to the flowing twenties.

For the third successive year this August, the movies for all things German, Goethe-Institut Manila, will present their oh-so-original "German Silent Film Festival," where screenings Filipino musicians like Drip and Radioactive Sago Project will score the silent classics on the spot.

Radioactive Sago Project's hodgepodge of spoken word poetry, jazz, and funk, opens the festival on Aug. 10, Thursday, at 6:00 PM. Next will Thomas U. The band takes on the 1920 Robert Wiene film "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari," a landmark of German expressionist cinema.

Other film screenings will follow every Thursday at 6 p.m.: "The Golem" (Aug. 17, scored by the swing-based electronic group Orip), "Tabu" (Aug. 24), scored by renowned Afro-Latin percussionist Bo Kramer), and "Asphalt" (Aug. 31, scored by folk singer-songwriter Cynthia Alexander). Expect a little gruesome horror, some skin-crawling suspense, and even a sappy love story.

For inquiries, call Goethe-Institut Manila at 811-0970 or visit www.goethe.de/manila. Admission is free.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

July 29, Saturday

Jazz in Heaven: A Tribute to The Cure at Drip; Christmas Lights, Purple Chickens, Moonchild, Wild Mood Swings, The Ex-Girls, Daydream Eyes, and Skins of Smiles at Sagada; Sweetness at Ed Martin Forget at Embassy Club; the Cream Aquarium, Hot Body Exercise, Spirit on, Makapit-Bigay Niños at Blag and Café; Soundproof City at Embassy Corner; When Bars at Cave; Hotel Cos Scratchmark & Alias at Prime at Jaipur; Crashfloor at Cielo; Rockin' Revival at Streetscape; Wasaji-La Plaza

July 30, Sunday

Salon de Secretos: Catalan Food Festival at Intercontinental Manila; Champagne Lunch at Fiesta Uno Mandarin Oriental; Champagne Brunch at Sunset Grill; Pluto!, "Brought To Palette's Eye exhibit at UP Vargas Museum

July 31, Monday

Agua Agenat, Flowfeet, Alex & Cherry Corn Holes at Blag; Get Daft, Funkfreakaround at Absinthe; Chart's Jam Monday's at Ed Rio at Greenbelt Makati; Silk & Steel at Mark's ; Teresa & Rival The Tenth Formation Jam Trio at Captain's Bar; Follow the Wreck at Club Mixx

Aug. 1, Tuesday

Cuisine Fiesta at Mandarin Oriental Embassy Cuisine; Mervelina & Spoon at Mag.net Cafe; Paint w/ DJ Alessandra Trio at Zen; Duende at Café Havana Cafe; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar; Smoked Out at Mark's

Aug. 2, Wednesday

Movie Therapy at Embassy; [illegible] at Blaze; Edo Karl Sy & Cao Boonsiriwat Embassy Corner; Ed Mars Miranda & Jobsynergy at Embassy Club; Willy Wonka at Music Factory at Greenbelt Makati; DJ Bill Bonnevinnet; Double Happiness at Prime at Jaipur; Jazz Night w/ Julia Dorcena at Mark's

Aug. 3, Thursday

Mad Sunday: Load at Annata Exhibition; Bellas Poets at 70s Bistro; Drop to Mondo! Da Kid Formerly Reggae Night at Underground; Boom Goal at DJ Dance Bonus; Sweet Suite Deal at Suite Lab; Pasok Thursdays at Absinth; Sandaho DJ Thursdays at Bed; DJ Medley Jeff at Ninjas Acoustic Jam at Mark's; JB Disneland Revival at Captain's Bar

Aug. 4, Friday

House Masters: Ignit Camp & Dan Slessor at Philtrade Center; Mad Sunday at Annata Exhibition; Sol House at Bleu; DJ Dennis Banal Embassy Club; Hotwalkouts at Mad; Mad Rush at Mad Cafe; DJ Mark Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Int at Boom Invent; Club Bar at Mad Rush at Simply; The Jerks at The Deli; DJ Cliff Vitencio & DJ Sarah Smith at Blag net Cafe; Shame at Glang Greatorage; Takeover at DJ Scratchmark & Alias at Prime at Jaipur; Dust Lobbera at Captain's Bar

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 247@yugi your mobile phone and send to 2366 (Globe) and 2366 (Smart). Log on to yugi.ph or pick up your free copy of 24/7 DAILY DOSE, AVAILABLE AT bars and restaurants in Metro Manila. Submit your schedules of activities to events@yugi247.com and yugi@yahoo.com.

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Super

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Viva lost wages

WHEN PARENTS ADVISE their teen or twen-something kids to spend wisely and "save their pesos for a rainy day," it's just like telling Paris Hilton to stop partying. Or Naomi Campbell to quit clubbing for assistance with cell phones. It sounds real awesome on paper but everyone knows it's now or gonna happen. Unless, of course, it's too belated, "I told you so!" kinda pain. You wise ... adults!

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

When you're young and time is on your side, money's easy to earn and, like, even easier to burn

are you ready for the **Phil. Science Entrance Exam?**

Increase your chances of passing... join the

M.S.A Entrance Tests Review

for PSHS, ATENEO, QC Science, Manila Science, and other Science High Schools

M.S.A Professional Review
LET Civil Service Exam
NMAT | GMAT | GRE | SAT | IELTS | TOEFL

M.S.A Reviewer Books
Available at National Book Store

M.S.A
Quezon City: 425-4063 • 925-4063
318 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City: 926.7544 • 929.9145 • 929.9158 • 926.7210
QC Review: 436-0011 • 535-3812
Makati City: 815-1807 / 893-3338•813-9941
Alabang: 808-8350•808-8351
Cainta: 658-8343
Antipolo: 658-8345
Cebu City: 255.2191•255.2192

Catch the excitement of first-class shopping at The Block in SM City North Edsa

A whole new addition to the dynamic SM City North Edsa complex, The Block stands four-square at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue in Pag-asa, Quezon City.

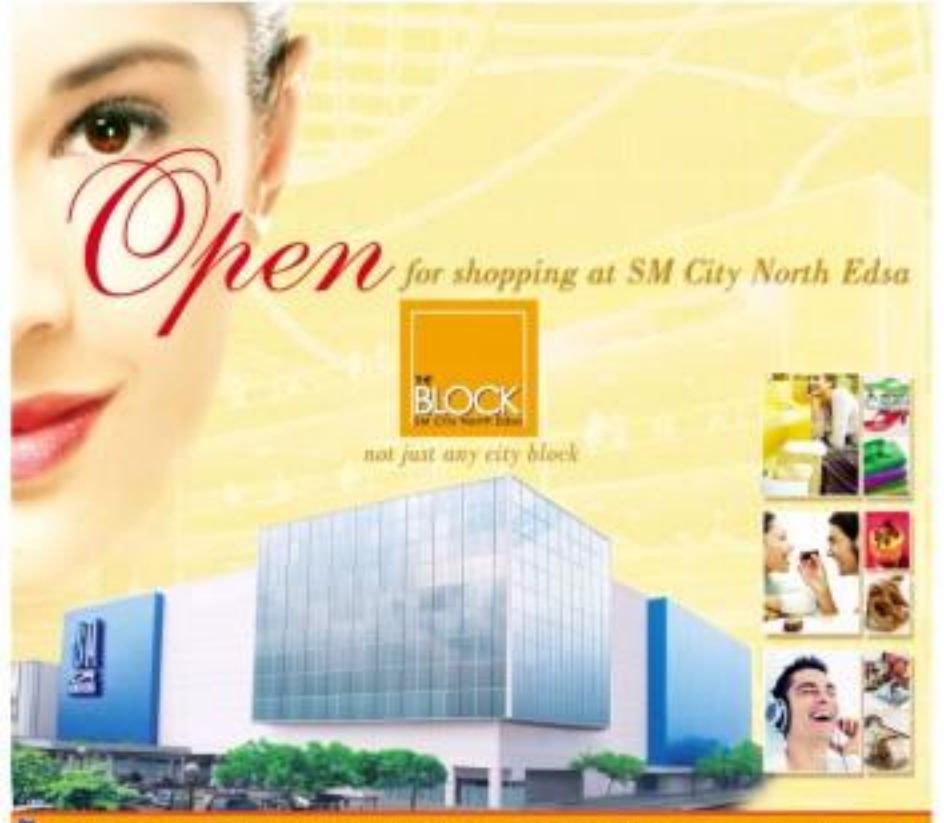
The Block's glass facade is a gleaming invitation to experience its luxurious ambience.

Designed as the ultimate shopping venue of discriminating northside shoppers, The Block houses dozens of high-end retail establishments that showcase a wide range of signature merchandise.

In between shopping bouts, be sure to treat yourself to the top-notch service and superior menu offerings of the restaurants and coffee shops located in The Block.

SM Cinema, located at the 4th floor has four state-of-the-art Dolby Digital theaters. The introductory movie treat offer includes deluxe movie tickets, regular popcorn and a drink for only P130. Premium ticket holders may also avail of this promo for only P180.

What's in Store at



HOTBOT

BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JOEL ABADIA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BAWOK

BY Pol. JUNIOR

NUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEBOATS

BY ELIZABETH CHICAGLIO

ATOMO AND WEBBY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

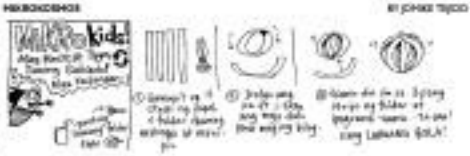
BY STEVEN PANALAAN

BIRD MACHINE

BY MARK A. ABORA

MEKBOKOMIKS

BY JOHNIE TEJIDO



TULOOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM HILARIBILANG

BEN

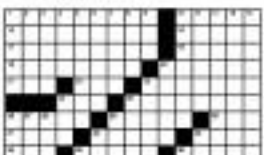
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Bloom maternity
5) Take place
10) Pen-it-tion
11) Ampere's meter
12) Bottom portion
13) Dose dry
15) Bad, mild
19) Cat and screaming
20) Bodies' refrigerants
21) Part of CBS
23) "A Chorus Line" number
24) Language of Bangladesh
25) Hasbro
26) Make impression
28) Bright spots this fall
30) Location of the missile
32) Night before
33) D.T. lines
37) Wicked employees
39) Pub choices
41) Tomorrow's drafts
42) Opening statement
43) Despise hard
44) Laundry detergent powders
45) Dream-trying pen
46) Tumor-remo
47) Cardbox alternative, for short
48) Secretary of "State"
49) Monitoring network, "Siemens IT and ..."
50) Lounging attire
52) Sun's warmth
53) Metaphysical
54) Feminine gender
55) Mind-manufacturer
56) Shoulder blades' shoulders
57) Dividers

DOWN
1) Expansion
2) Egg-producing organ
3) First leg of cricket
4) "The Lord can see ..."
5) Medicine, as syrups
6) Types of cabinets
7) "Fix clothes"
8) Weight
9) Scent of something
10) Sneeze, with "off"
11) Children's entertainers
12) Bubbly liquids
13) Monday's celebration
14) Set aside
16) Wrist-cop style
17) Clothes wannabes
18) Pieces for Sharon Stone's shoulders
22) Make cloth gathers
24) Pieces of the step
27) Self-evident
29) 1922 vampire film
31) Pulled siblings?
34) Punk, NJ
35) Travelers say for John Edwa
36) Muffins
38) "Brazil" director Gilli
39) ENDING
40) Make evident

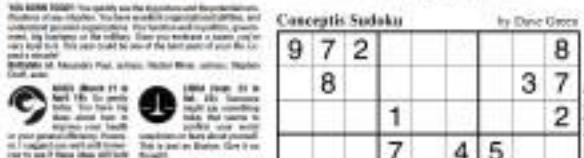
41) Tools slide
42) Apothecary measures
43) Tabby can fiddle's dance
45) Cream filler
47) Doctor-reliance factor



Answers Puzzle Solved

© 2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

HOROSCOPE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

9	7	2						8
	8						3	7
			1					2
			7		4	5		
				2				
		5	3		9			
2					8			
6	3						2	
7						9	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill in a grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

3	2	6	9	5	4	8	7	1
7	9	8	1	6	3	4	5	2
4	5	1	2	8	7	3	6	9
2	8	7	4	1	5	9	3	6
1	4	3	5	6	9	7	2	8
6	9	5	8	7	2	1	4	3
8	1	4	6	2	8	5	9	7
9	3	2	7	9	8	2	1	4
5	7	9	3	4	1	6	8	5

© 2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Inc. by Tribune Content Agency

Viva lost wages

Pretzeage 11

See, if you really were suicidal like some, you'd be familiar with this scenario: Dude gets a job. Dude gets a paycheck. Dude "treats" paycheck. Dude cries for months. Mommy says, "Told you so!" Bruised ego lifts—gamer fist in long, is hopefully possible or not. Dude gives enough tracks money to realize that a decent-look bar tower pre-morning drink (that he does, whatever is more spiritual).

So right now in your city, some kid who's just graduated in a moment like an orgasm rushed to his keyboard. Then deep-fried and covered with a tangy dipping sauce. I only have this to say: Boo-ya for him! I mean, Dell. Or something to that effect.

Dude, where's my HR?

According to Randy Von Kuhn of Wisconsin's Marshfield News Herald, you're not alone. In his article, "What Generation Y Should Start Saving," he mentioned that 54 percent of Gen Y employees—some of the youngest members of the global workforce—say they really or never think about retirement savings.

Von Kuhn said that Gen Y respondents [illegible] to "thirty-day needs (55 percent) and lifestyle purchases (61 percent)" as the main obstacles that prevent them from chipping in to their plans of a retirement savings plan. He also brought up other interesting survey statistics: "Nine (61 percent) say they don't have enough information and really don't know what to do to manage their retirement accounts. The majority (61 percent) of Generation Y workers believe they will need retirement through savings they put away in a new Jane Bruce, the problem during of getting started."

But are we [illegible] What if you don't account to "financially illiterate?" (And by that, I mean "a big stomping pile of suffering.") Is it too late for the young but financially cursed to become Oliver Stone-esque financial dynamos?

Not a life and debt situation

In "Start Late, Finish Rich," author David Bach throws down some ramp-hot get-your-ass-organized about the whole get-rich thing. "You can't outdo stockholders yourself to wealth or happiness," he says in chapter one, because "the pain will worsen to be your financial ending. It always will." Whether you're a 20-something struggling with student loans or baby boomer in debt to get them from back on track, there all, he writes, "it's not a race, it's a marathon." Cue Bach! Here's how you all stop eating your heads for money.

Starting by [illegible] the Latte Factor"—[illegible] cutting [illegible] Bach, the head honcho of a [illegible] organized investment—sees the same. I found the most relevant to my [illegible] remembering life. In essence, it says that by cutting down on the small stuff—daily snacks from precious, expensive coffee drinks and eating out a few times, for example—you can set aside that cash for your future. The cost of a Starbucks latte may seem like an insignificant amount. And when you multiply that by the number of times you treat it in a week, month, or year, you'll be looking at a huge chunk of change. Bach and his team even came up with a handy-dandy [illegible] to help you figure out how much you'll be saving in the long run.

The point of the Latte Factor is to make you aware of how much money you are wasting on little unimportant stuff and how much you could have if instead of wasting it on those dollars, you put them to more productive use." Bach goes on to explain in fact, he also included that mantra, which came from an old Beagle Boys movie poster on their Latte Factor. It hits spot and is a brilliant concept," I mean, I love those unexpected boy-ups and all, but that the statement sorta made me stop and think for a second.

Paging all you fortune cats

As a bonafide victim of the post-college recession, I have a friend who met to film many money gurus. Lately, in fact, I've been prepping for all the fortune cats in Hannah.

Digging [illegible] know when the hell my money goes [illegible] after payday.

Like, despite earning an [illegible] my design [illegible] to actually [illegible] people—[illegible]. I don't say that I'm a lot poorer now [illegible] (than when I was a college kid on allowance). For days when the funds are running precariously low, I'll [illegible] when you wish for your own money instead of her [illegible] to you. Again, [illegible].

And no matter how [illegible] how much saving business, it doesn't help that at every single graduating class reunion [illegible] that—to our collective shame—[illegible] I'm constantly reminded by every person [illegible] to buy one to the tedium of my job. To [illegible] other [illegible] rings true: The more you earn, the more you spend.

It's true then that even [illegible] don't following college hold the most earning potential for us. But financially, it's also the time when we can [illegible] afford to buy more stuff because we're [illegible] financially independent. But in the end, it's really up to you between saving and [illegible] of money coming in and going out, of little sacrifices and bigger rewards. When it comes to [illegible] your life tomorrow, it really doesn't matter if you're a stock trader or a [illegible] because it boils down to four words: Spread less, save more.

Rich dude, poor dude

THE ROAD from "zero to zillionaire," as the book below says, may be tough especially for us young ones, but the most important thing is to start the journey. Here are three titles to help get your money magic flowing.

LITTLE thing—setup. Read more about the Latte Factor in David Bach's "Start Late, Finish Rich" (P 1,200, Fully Booked)

KEEP the peeps who make you rich and happy. Kids are those who make you poor and miserable. For that and other things, check out "Zero to Zillionaire." (P795, Fully Booked)

FOCUS dudes sure. Rich dudes invest. Remember that if you want to make more money. See "Rich Dad, Poor Dad For Teens" (P495, Fully Booked) for more info.

SIMPLE BLACK: ORIGINAL HP RELIABILITY AT A PRICE YOU CAN EASILY AFFORD.

Don't run the risk of having print problems by using generic inks with HP printers. Instead use the reliable and highly affordable HP 27b Simple Black Inkjet Print Cartridge.

At just P579, it's the ideal ink cartridge for your day-to-day text printing.

Original HP Inkjet Print Cartridges. The science behind brilliant printing.

New black and white packaging

The HP 27b Simple Black Inkjet Print Cartridge is compatible with the following printers:
HP Deskjet 3320, 3325, 3420, 3535, 3550, 3650, 3744, 3745, 3820 Color Inkjet Printers
HP PSC 1110, 1210, 1310 All-in-One

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.customerHP@hp.com

hp invent

©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The HP Invent Symbol is a trademark of Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. Available at selected Power Mac and HP Resellers only.

Super Super Selection!

Fun, funky and functional, Crocs give your feet a break from pretty but painful shoes

Shoes that don't bite

By Pam Pavao

HEARTIES OF BOOZE CONFABULATED hoofward. Jim of Rhetoricum rose sweet to the middle of a huge hustle.

A footwear battle.

Jim fell down with ordinal loveable "I'm forgiven, humble child—of footwear!" but Brother had directed drugs-aim-yuppies, were writing him a tremendous letter.

The battle continued with me recruiting people to join his Clog Army while Brother surged on with Operation Ho's Bon Carving Throughout.

Victory came for the Clog Army, after a mad night said, when Jim was able to liberate his Slick Crocs.

Jim isn't the only one enamored by Crocs, an fashionably light and comfortable footwear from colorful.

Originally invented as a boating and outdoor shoe, the history of Croc begins in 2002, three then, the popularity of Crocs has risen, with its fashion growing beyond boat lovers, gardening enthusiasts, athletes, chefs and doctors.

While some people are still coming to terms with these unusual shapes and vibrant hues, others have pledged allegiance.

In the UK, people have started buying them in every color, inspiring stores like Harvey & Nichols and Heatherette to stock more designs in more shades. People from all over have professed their love for the rubber-soled clogs—three to even a Pilate group down at to them. The Crocs website is also packed with a lot of testimonials—written by Croc-wearers.

"I paid a lot. Because they're so comfortable I couldn't stop wearing my Crocs even though I might drip paint on them," James from Colorado said.

Plainly, a wait one wrote, "They felt like my feet were nestled into soft sponges. Oh-filled and protected. Even my toes felt like they were cradled in marshmallow soft sponges! Now, at the end of the day, I have a little pain in the hips and knees but my feet do not hurt one bit."

"These are the most comfortable, funky, fun shoes I have ever had—so my feet, I can't wait to buy every color!" said Jen.

Celebrities love them too.....Drew Barrymore, Al Pacino, Heather Locklear, Kate Winslet, Ellen DeGeneres, Portia De Rossi, Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Tori Spelling, Rush Hill and Tim McGraw have all been spotted wearing Crocs.

But Crocs are more than just the funky colors and fun fun designs. They are made of a closed-cell resin called Croslite™, which warms and softens with body heat and molds to the foot of its user. Crocs, which is not anti-microbial and has slip-resistant, have built-in arch support, non-marking soles, air ventilation ports. Each pair weighs less than 8 ounces, which explains why wearing them makes you feel like you're wearing nothing.

The list can name the comfort of Crocs—they're already available in boot wears.

Fun, funky and functional, Crocs give your feet a break from your pretty but painful shoes. Want to, these Crocs will never bite.

Read Crocs *read at PUNO. They're available at seven nationwide including Rustan's Department stores, Tiger Shoe and Nothing But Shoes. For more style matters, visit www.crocs.com.ph.*

The Black Eyed Peas arrived close to midnight and partied all night long

Photos by Tim Yap using Kodak K770

Tim Yap

FILIPINO! FILIPINO!" APL DE Ap's rap to herald Pinoy pride still echoes in my subconscious. He hit it right on the spot for that nation that indeed has so much to be proud about.

I remember when DJ Johnny Stone (aka Jun Rotoras) first played it on our shows via his weekly Wednesday Superblunts nights (happy first year buddy-o!). He had just arrived from LA, after hanging out with hip-hop royalty (the Black Eyed Was included) and decided to play the album. When Filipino rap all of a sudden reverberated along the halls of the VIP room, someone went up to me and said, "What kind of music are you guys playing?" with a look of disgust that is scared of foreign (meaning it won't be English). "Hey, dad's Pinoy rap," I said. The bothered purplish looked at me with a weary 'feel

BPI SAVE UP MOVE UP!

A studio unit at The Columns Ayala Avenue is at stake in BPI's Save Up, Move Up promo.

Are you a luxury seeker or a young urban professional? Get a headstart in life. Envision yourself waking up to an impressive view of the city and a breathtaking view of—there! Important's. To your afternoons made more beautiful by the golden sunset of Manila Bay. Unwind at home, a stone's throw away from the office, the shopping malls and your favorite bars and restaurants.

Imagine no more. This place could be yours if you join and win in BPI's Save Up, Move Up promo. Get a chance to own a posh studio unit at The Columns Ayala Avenue this October when up is the when you save with BPI.

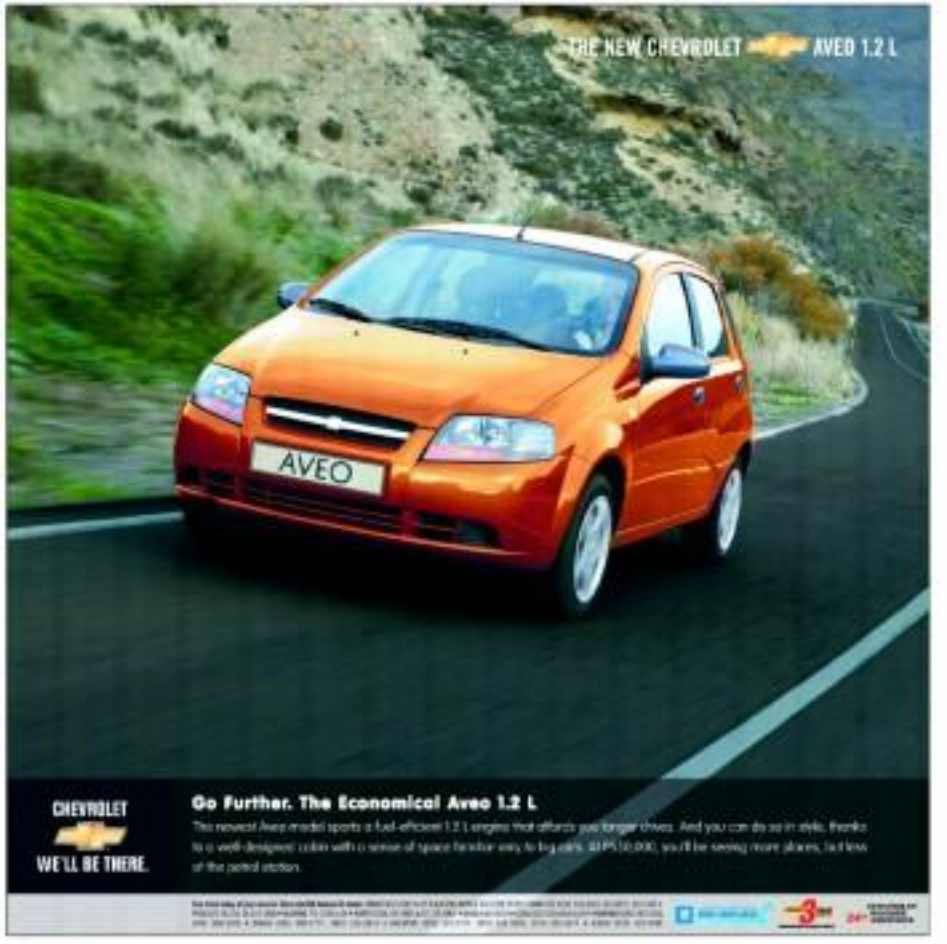
The promo is open to all peso and foreign currency individual account holders who open or maintain savings, checking or time deposit accounts with BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank or BPI Direct Savings Bank. Every ₱5,000 deposit in savings or checking or ₱15,000 in a time deposit, maybe-computer to get one (1) electronic raffle coupon. The more you save, the more chances of winning.

On top of BPI Save Up, Move Up's raffle, a depositor is also entitled to get a BPI Electronic Gift Card worth ₱1,000 for every ₱100,000 new or additional deposit in savings or checking.

No other bank can give you a promo as exciting as this one. So start saving with BPI today. Who knows, you could be in for a fabulous lifestyle upgrade!

Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank Branch or Express Banking Center. You may also call BPI 888 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK



LOVE HUB. TOL Jasmine Rios and Kris Lawrence

TWO PEAS IN A POD. Party on, Pinkgirls!

GROOVE NATION. Jay R and Lia

SIBLING REVELRY A TO Z. Jaime and Mariana Zobel, milking IT click

K-BOYS BREAKING OUT. The best and the best mean and mask

HUB FREESTYLE. Next generation upfe artist Bernice Duenas tracks it

Bebot! bebot! bebot! bebot!

PLUG DE WITH TOU. Rapper hangs out with Black Eyed Peas frontman Will.I.Am

SWEETEST TABOO. Taboo finds a sweet... Aimee Ray

NEXT TO GO. PINOY PRIDE! Apl. de Ap of Black Eyed Peas and Ms. Ann old jasmine Trias

PART OF THE ENTOURAGE. I love his BBWoman Boys Club boudoir

PLANET MARS. DJ Mars Miranda spins his own brand of funk

DJ AND MC. DJ Ace and Paolo Mac lead the way at Superklasse

RUB-A-DUB. Jasmine and Jilian reunited after the "Bebot" video

KLASSE MATES. Jon Herrera and Mark Reyes

CAN'T-TE KISS YOU? Brian Gan beauty Rossanna or YB?

THE NEW STYLE SET. Gio Boni Stunts for stuff

TWO TOA TEE. Tom and Tom Tom

MUSIC HUNK. Jimmy Mess and Kris Lawrence

Superklasse with Johnny Verse

I SEE THINGS ABOUT PEOPLE IN THAT. The day you leave on the Day to Day people's heights.

The thing I love most about what I do is... I suppose tuxedo and hungry the more.

People might be surprised to know that... I read a brand called Japanese magazines. And shoes are my weak.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that: Never stop learning ... Never give up.

I wish when I started off I've been told that: People will always want you to see you fail.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that: I lost my father.

And what this taught me was: Life is too short ... live your day like it was your last.

The secret to happiness is: My family, friends, and my beautiful love. Learn to others and set course finding the right one.

My last ever outfit splurge was: A Tru Youth T-shirt ... my favorite Ellen DeGeneres Levis 501 shorts Crown jeans.

My Super Saturday night consists of: The perfect combination Wednesday Night ... the new Saturday night is living and making sure your's had fun from Saturday.

The soundtrack to my life would include: Songs from the West Willies N. Dads, Killers, Bloc Party, Kanye West, Pharrell Williams and Jay-Z.

If I was invisible for a day, I would: Rob some clothes and get free rides in cars.

The thing that makes me most angry is: People who aren't real and people who talk a lot of animals.

If I was the most powerful person on earth: I'd take charge and end poverty and there isn't for all the diseases and illnesses of the world.

The best thing about family is that: At the end of the day, they will have your back no matter. Bing and my best friends and all of them are girls.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say: There can only be one Johnny.

If money was no option: I'd make shoes cause counting and I would be rich.

When I retire, I would like to: Help the underprivileged children and have my own foundation for the education of street children.

The thing that makes me the worst is my Dummy Boo! Burning happiness brother people and because of that I will never ever stop what I do.

My greatest hope in the future is to: Love life to its fullest ... and live my life Youth.

The worst thing somebody said about me was: Somebody once said that I will never succeed in what I do.

My favorite cosmetics are when: I get to travel and see the world and when I get to share my knowledge about life to people.

My most embarrassing moment was: Falling down the stairs. That happens a lot.

I'm saving up: To buy my self an island.

My biggest indulgence is: Sara Bell and Ben + Ed and lemon chocolate souffle.

My current state of mind is: I want to death and never give up.

My favourite words are? Push, share, finish, relationships (no sarcastic, way I am really ???

I want to be: A legacy and a magic

API. VERSE. Hip-hop so you can't stop

MASKED CRUSADER: Mark Galon (Mercado of EPC) accepts Best Mask.

ROCKSTAR READING: Ani de Leon of Imago reads excerpts of fiction finalists.

ANGELS ONTARTE: "The Bird Incubation" vignette.

The beginnings of 'Filipino Unrealism'

AFTER THE PHENOMenal SUCCESS of Neil Gaiman's three-day visit and book signing tour in Manila in July 2004, the "cool and" of modern literature and literature and Fully Booked forged an interesting pact. To get into the business of truly thinking dreamy voice vine, Neil Gaiman wanted to give something back to the Filipino people because of the unparalleled warmth and enthusiasm he had experienced in the Philippines, and this gift was revealed to be the Philippine Graphic Fiction Awards.

Gaiman's directive was simple: He wanted to encourage "Filipino Unrealism." In his own words, "Horror is a strong tradition of Filipino realism in literature. I want to encourage Filipino unrealism." Neil had personally funded the nationwide competition that would seek out and reward extraordinary Filipino talent in writing and art. The nationwide competition was launched last October of 2005, and Fully Booked received an overwhelming amount of entries from all over the Philippines, not just from Manila, but from Davao, Baguio, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu and Zamboanga also. There were even entries also from Filipinos abroad, living in Los Angeles and Brussels, Belgium.

The competition culminated in the grand awarding ceremony called "Unmasked: The First Philippine Graphic Fiction Awards," held last Saturday, July 15, 2006.

It was a whole day affair celebrating creativity, the power of imagination, and Filipino Unrealism (which Fully Booked vowed like to celebrate as our own version of magical realism). Whole-day exhibits of the finalists of the comics category were displayed as installation pieces. Signature, or visual representations of the finalists of the Prose/Fiction category were also installed but (better of 2006),

SM SUPERMALLS RED-HOT SHOPPING DAYS

Beat the rainy day blues! Starting Friday, July 28 rush to SM City Sta. Mesa and SM City Sucat for three exciting days of red-hot value finds.

loads of Merchandise are on sale at up to **50%** off in SM City Sucat and SM City Sta. Mesa on the weekend of **July 28, 29** and **30**.

Rain gear? Car accessories? Home basics? Trendy fashion accessories? Find these and more at irresistibly affordable price breaks at the two supermalls.

shopping list

Stores open at 10am and close at 10pm, giving you all the time to check out the items in your shopping list.

WOW prizes

On top of all your shopping choices, you also get the exciting chance to win one of **20 WOW Magic Sing** with every P500 minimum single or accumulated purchase at participating mall establishments including SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and SM Hypermarket.

SM's leisure affiliates are offering shoppers more chances to win in the WOW Magic Sing raffle promo:

For only ₱150 SM FOODCOURT single or accumulated purchase at SM Foodcourt, diners can join the raffle.

SM CINEMA **Buy 2 movie tickets** and get a free movie pass on your next visit.

amusement Centers Get one raffle coupon for every P100 single purchase of tokens.

a weekend of savings. July savings

dining and fun await everyone at SM City Sta. Mesa and SM City Sucat. **Bring the whole family and beat the July rains with a shower of savings!**

SM City STA. MESA

SM City SUCAT

mall hours: 10am-10pm

get a chance to **win** with every P500 minimum purchase

WOW! Magic Sing the best-selling magic sing

Super
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Here kitty, kitty, kitty

By Pepe Diokno
Photos by Tim Yap

'We don't do funny faces... We don't know how to have fun.' (Laughs) –Nicole

There isn't a more truthful way to start an article about the Pussycat Dolls than with, "It's a dream come true for every freakin' man in the world! Repetitive. Explosive. Whoa! Assertive: explosive."

I could've started with that awesome, but taboo and gratuitous, we have to strain here to be just tasteful. So, let me start with this:

Explosive! Explosive! Explosive! Whoosh!! [explosive] rant the Pussycat Dolls! Explosive-ness. I'll calm down now.

We've all loved the Pussycat Dolls since they exploded into the music scene two years ago. But the group was actually founded way before that, in 1995, by choreographer Robin Antin. They started as a burlesque dance troupe in Los Angeles. I was 8 years old then—"pussy" to my breast two things: 1) a cat, and 2) a baby cat. Wait, it still means those two things to me. I promise.

It was in 2004 that the dance troupe was transformed into a recording group. The Pussycat Dolls were born, giving us the six sexy ladies we have to see/ballroom with.

Hey, dolls!

Nicole Kea Scherzinger is the lead vocalist of the Dolls. Born half Filipina, She says, jokingly that she was excited to come to the Philippines because she wants to be in a place where everyone looks like her. She cried as she stepped off the plane when she saw lines of people with English faces.

Here kitty, kitty, Kitty

Front page G1

Nicole began performing with Actors Theater of Louisville. His later inspired in theater arts at Wright State University, but put her studies on hold to pursue dancing.

Carmit Bachar is one of the original Dolls. She's been a member of the group longer than any other performer. She's a dancer...both her parents were dancers, so it's in her blood. She was a gymnast – she has competed in the Gymnastics World Championships. She is, of course, a musician as well. She attended the Interlochen Academy of Music in Los Angeles, studying music, dance, piano, and violin. Also.

Meanwhile, the other members of the group are readily cautioned on dancing.

Jessica Sutta started dance classes at the age of three, and at 14 she went to the New World School of the Arts to study dance. She joined the Miami Heat dance team in 1999, and became its captain in 2001.

Kimberly Wyatt has danced since she was seven years old. By the time she was 14 she was earning scholarships to study in New York each summer. Bobby Astin, POD's founder, says, "Kimberly is the easiest dancer I have ever seen in my life."

Ashley Roberts began dancing at the age of 2, and singing at the age of 8. After high school she moved permanently to Los Angeles, and within six months of her move she was also a Pussycat Doll.

Melody Thornton, lastly is the baby of the group. She was found from an open call audition. She saw the Dolls on MTV and heard they were auditioning, he's now band mates. Melody went along to the audition and was chosen. "It's a Cinderella story," she says.

More than sexy

There's a lot behind those girls. It's more than just dance moves and sexy clothes. I saw this as the Dolls went through video interviews. I overheard their schedules—they flew in just hours before we sat down to talk— and if I had a schedule like that I'd be dead. But the whole time, throughout all the interviews, they looked like they were genuinely having fun, they looked in love with what they do.

They were a well-oiled machine, too. They went through recording, station IDs and guestings, and different TV shows, and languages, like clockwork. Kimberly explained later, "The Pussycat Dolls are like a system."

Ate Pussies

That doesn't mean they're not human. They're so human, in fact, that I think we can be close friends. Yes, I, believe I can be close friends with the Pussycat Dolls. Or if not, they can be my sons.

A kid came in followed by the "With Ito Lang" crew, had her shirt and power signed, and took pictures with them. They reached me and hugged her. Me, dude's appear me, chemical - not at all. It looked very heartfelt.

A Taiwanese station gave the girls cheese

We'll all disappear, not show up at our concert, and go to Boracay!

ton Dolls Kitties. Like, you don't expect the Pussycat Dolls to eat chocolate, right? But, "Everyday is a cheat day," Melody says...relief me to following a diet. At the start of our interview, we were sticking on the floor, and the girls were finishing their chocolates.

Tim and I were warned to not them by asking them to make funny faces. "We didn't expect them to - people let the entertainment industry hold on to those images as right as ours. We asked anyway. "Can you make funny faces for us?" Nicole answered, "We don't do funny faces." Tim and I went, "Uh-." but then she continued, "Cause we don't know how to have fun," and laughed.

Time was the start of a real conversation. Here's some of the stuff we talked about:

Talking Dolls

If you had all the time and money in the world, what would you do to relax?

Melody: I'd go to Asian Tropez!

(How 'bout Boracay?

Kimberly: Yeah, we'd love to go there!

Carmit: Nicole and I were joking — we'll all disappear, not show up at our concert, and go to Boracay! (Laughs)

"Don't Cha" has become an anthem for this generation—for girls, young people, party people. When you were starting out, was that your plan, to make them

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Saturday, July 29, 2006

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

I AM SUPER! PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

_____ is Super!

He/she rocks the world of _____ to the extreme!

NOMINATE ANY SUPER! PA-
tplus from any field who's
made an impact in it.

Fill in the blanks above (ex.
ex. "Manny Pacquiao is Super!
because he rocks the world of
boxing to the extreme!"

Send this to superawards @gmail.com.

Bench Body's newest endorser, Nicole, and the rest of the Pussycat Dolls sit down with Super! and produce a hybrid Superhero, The Supercat! (Not the boat)

POWERBOOKS
SPECIALTY STORE

David Sedaris
Talk Pretty
in Manila

Bring your favorite David Sedaris book and have it signed!

Book Signing Schedules

The 5th, Shangri-La Plaza
July 27, 2006, 6:00 PM

Powerbooks Alabang
July 28, 2006, 5:00 PM

Powerbooks Greenbelt
July 29, 2006, 5:00 PM

Log on to for more details or visit www.powerbooks.com.ph
www.talkprettymania.blogspot.com
Customer Service hotline: 757-6428 to 29

Lahat Ng Ito Available Na Sa Sun Xpress Load.

Kahit saan, kahit kailan, kayang mag-load ng kahit anong Sun Cellular Prepaid product via Sun Xpress Load.

Bilis, Mag-Xpress Load Na!

Pumili Sa: Regular Load P20-P150, P300, P500 • 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited • 24/7 Text Unlimited • Daylite Call & Text Unlimited
Sulit Calls • Convert-a-Load • IDD Top 10 • iMessenger

SUN CELLULAR